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PAGE 16



HALIFAX

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Wednesday, December 12, 2012



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YOUNG GUNS

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, right, from Burnaby, B.C., chats with Halifax Mooseheads forward Nathan MacKinnon, who is from Cole Harbour, during the national junior hockey team selection camp in Calgary on Tuesday. Thirty-six players are vying for 23 roster spots and took to the ice for the first time Tuesday. Story, see page 28. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Green light for Solar City

Energy efficient.

Council votes 17-0 in
favour of solar-energy
pilot project

Halifax regional councillors have cleared the way for the launch of an energy-conservation initiative that's the first of its kind in Canada.

Council voted unanimously in favour of launching the pilot project of Solar City, under which HRM will partner with the local solar industry to provide affordable solar energy to homeowners.

"We always seem to be searching out best practices from other municipalities," said Coun. Darren Fisher at Tuesday's meeting. "Solar City will hopefully have other cities and municipalities following our lead."

About 1,600 homeowners have applied for inclusion in the \$8.2-million initiative, although the pilot can only accommodate 1,000.

The project, described as "financially self-sustaining," is funded by Efficiency Nova Scotia and by both a grant and low-interest loan from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Coun. Barry Dalrymple, chair of HRM's environment and sustainability standing committee, praised Coun. Russell Walker for knocking on doors after the FCM initially rejected the funding request.

"This council, wanting this program to happen so badly, agreed at the end of the day that, as long as there was any hope whatsoever, we would not allow this program to die," he said. "That faith and vision by this council allowed us to be here today."

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

Open houses

HRM will hold open houses in late January to explain the project. Details are available at halifax.ca/solarcity



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Council

Bell Media wins sponsorship of Emera Oval



The Halifax skating oval
METRO FILE

Council has approved a staff recommendation to award Bell Media the rights to media sponsorship of the Emera Oval.

Bell, Newcap Radio and CBC submitted bids for the rights in December 2011. A staff report submitted to council Tuesday states the three bids were reviewed based on media demographic, "robustness" of the media offering, general exposure of the oval, and the overall in-kind value.

Tuesday's council vote formalizes an agreement between HRM and Bell Media with an in-kind value of \$147,822.

Under the terms of the agreement, Bell will provide promotion via its TV and radio stations, websites and social media, and will host and promote monthly skating events. In exchange, the network gets exclusive broadcast promotion rights, banner space on the oval and at events, and hosting and cross-promotional opportunities.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

Halifax Common

Plan for open spaces referred to committee

Coun. Jennifer Watts' motion to have staff draw up a master plan for open spaces on the historic Halifax Common was modified slightly before being approved.

Watts wanted staff to build on the 1994 Common plan, through public consultation, to detail appropriate uses for open space within the historic green space.

However, several councillors were concerned about diverting planning resources to yet another planning exercise, particularly when the Centre Plan includes a component to address open spaces.

At the suggestion of Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin, the motion has been referred to the community planning and economic development standing committee.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO



The proposed development of the Bloomfield Centre in Halifax is moving forward. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Bloomfield Centre to change hands

Not a done deal.
Council votes to move ahead with sale to Housing Corp., despite concerns about vision, design



RUTH DAVENPORT
ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

Halifax regional council has voted to sell the Bloomfield Centre to a provincial housing authority, but the winning bidder has work to do on its design concept.

Several councillors were

unhappy with the proposal from the Nova Scotia Housing Corp., which received a high score for the financial components.

However, it received a score of 18 out of 35 — the lowest of the three bidders — for the "understanding of vision and objectives for the site" component.

The financial criterion was worth 50 per cent of the final score.

"When I look at the criterion, based on all the time and effort spent looking at this plan, I would have thought the most important would have been the understanding of the vision, not the financial," said Coun. Gloria McCluskey.

Vote tally

The final vote came out 10-6 in favour of sale.

- "No" votes: David Hendsbee, Bill Karsten, Gloria McCluskey, Linda Mosher, Stephen Adams and Matt Whitman

Councillors were also concerned about the size of the affordable-housing units included in the proposed new facility, which aren't large enough for families.

HRM manager of real estate and facility services Peter Stickings told council the cor-

poration still had three "layers" of public consultation ahead — the last of which will secure a development agreement.

Stickings said the agreement will address the "deficient" technical and design aspects of the proposal that led to the low score.

Coun. Jennifer Watts, in turn, urged councillors to approve the sale and move the 10-year redevelopment process forward.

"I think what we've heard today is that it's time to make a decision," said Watts. "We have planning processes and consultation in place, we have some opportunity to be very clear about that."

Scheduling debate divides council

Too many chefs?

"If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. There's a lot of work, and we're here and we should be prepared to do a lot of work."

Coun. Gloria McCluskey

10 to five, it would not really tire council out," he said.

The unsolicited report did not sit well with Coun. Brad Johns. "Without having direction given by council, having staff do things

that council will then wear later on, is why ... there have been times council has looked like we were not working functionally," he said.

Several councillors said

the optics of fewer council meetings were not good.

The report suggested the new powers pending for community councils would reduce council's workload, prompting Coun. Linda Mosher to call the discussion premature.

At Rankin's suggestion, council agreed to stick to a weekly meeting schedule, but to have the executive standing committee revisit the issue in 90 days.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

South Shore

Ex-teacher fired after indecent act meets with parents

A former Nova Scotia teacher fighting to reclaim his job at an elementary school has met with parents and school board officials.

The meeting on Tuesday evening was part of a restorative-justice program for Peter Speight, who was charged with committing an indecent act for incidents that occurred in 2008

in the Halifax area.

Speight pleaded guilty and was given a conditional discharge. He was later fired from his position at New Germany Elementary School in the South Shore Regional School Board.

But last month, the Nova Scotia Supreme Court ruled the former Grade 3 teacher was unreasonably fired.

After Tuesday's meeting, the board will review the community input and work on a transition plan to bring Speight back into the classroom. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Start from scratch

Lottery tickets a bad gift idea for kids: Lotteries Co. CEO

The holiday season is quickly approaching and many people are buying lottery and scratch tickets as gifts and stocking stuffers.

While these are great gifts for adults, the acting president and CEO of the Nova Scotia Provincial Lotteries and Casino Corporation says they are not appropriate for minors.



Lottery scratch cards METRO FILE

"While lottery and Scratch N' Win tickets might seem

like fun gifts, it is a form of gambling and it is important that we send a message to parents that youth should not be gambling, no exception," Bob MacKinnon said in a news release Tuesday. "Playing the lottery at a young age can increase the potential for problem gambling later in life."

The release also says results from recent studies show a growing number of high school students reportedly receive one or more lottery tickets or scratch cards as gifts.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

Tatamagouche

Two families safe after house fires

The Canadian Red Cross says fire has destroyed a home in Tatamagouche. A couple and their two children were not at home Monday, but two family pets died in the blaze. A local fire official says the fire broke out around 10 a.m.

Earlier, a woman and three young children in Bridgewater escaped a fire at their home on Saturday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Premier calls Bowater deal a 'once-in-a-lifetime gift'

Taking chances. Dexter says taking on millions more in debt with deal necessary for industry's long-term prosperity



ANDREW RANKIN

andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

In exchange for adding at least \$117.7 million to the provincial debt, the province now has the opportunity to "breathe new life into Nova Scotia's forestry industry" by acquiring forest lands larger than Yarmouth County, Premier Darrell Dexter said Tuesday.

The statement came as he revealed details of the province's purchase of Bowater Mersey Paper Co. from Resolute Forest Products Inc. and the Washington Post.

"These are tough economic times, and they will say, 'In very difficult times you had a government that had the vision, the strength of purpose to see the opportunities that are there,'" said Dexter.

In exchange for a single dollar, the province gets 550,000 acres of forest property worth \$117.7 million, which according to provincial accounting rules, gets added to the province's \$13.3-billion debt.

Up to 30,000 acres of the

land would be protected for biodiversity and recreational purposes.

The province inherits \$136.4 million in liabilities, including an \$18-million debt that Bowater owed to majority owner Resolute as well as a \$100-million pension fund for former company employees. Dexter said Bowater's assets would support the pension plan.

The deal also comes with \$150.4 million in assets, including fibre inventory and the Brooklyn Power Corp., worth \$25 million. The province plans to sell the facility to Emera for the same price and will use the money to pay off \$18.4 million in other liabilities and employee costs for former mill workers.

The former \$5-million mill is also included. The province plans to transform it into a bioenergy and clean energy facility.

The province would generate the bulk of the cash from the land by generating \$4 million in annual stumpage fee revenue and harvesting licenses.

Oak Hill sawmill is excluded from the deal because it would have violated the Canada-U.S. softwood lumber agreement.

Dexter said his government is still on schedule to balance the budget.

Quoted

"Buying the Bowater lands at a fair and reasonable price is an investment in our future."

Premier Darrell Dexter



Premier Darrell Dexter speaks at the opening of the first Forestry of the Future Forum at the Westin Nova Scotia on Tuesday morning. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

Opposition says hundreds of millions of dollars at stake in Bowater deal

The leaders of both opposition parties say the government didn't factor in potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in added costs in purchasing Bowater Mersey Paper Co.

Liberal leader Stephen McNeil and Tory leader Jamie Baillie also agree that the land should be in the hands of the province but differ on how much ought to be.

McNeil said the province

should have control of the entire 550,000 acre forest land. But he added his major concern lies with the province taking over the former mill property.

"What are those costs of the liabilities by taking over the mill itself?" said McNeil. "What is the plan going forward to ensure that the land is maximized to its true value?"

The cost of cleaning up the former Abitibi Bowater mill in Newfoundland and Labrador is estimated at more than \$100 million. McNeil believes the province could be facing the same price tag with Bowater Mersey Paper Co.

"The province should be able to tell us what an environmental cleanup will cost, if they've done their due diligence," he said.

Baillie said the government took the most expensive route, taking on \$136.4 million of the company's debt.

He said the province should own a portion of protected land while regulating the sale and use of the rest of the property.

"You get to the same end result at much less cost," said Baillie. **ANDREW RANKIN/METRO**

Concerns over province grabbing former mill

"What are those costs of the liabilities by taking over the mill itself? What is the plan going forward to ensure that the land is maximized to its true value?"

Liberal leader Stephen McNeil



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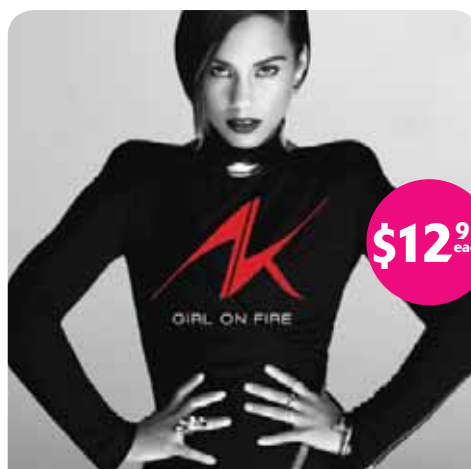
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\$150K reward offered for info on Marriott homicide

Ongoing investigation. Organized crime suspected of playing a role in 2009 murder



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Justice Minister Ross Landry says society remains at a "higher risk" if the person responsible for the murder of Terry Marriott Jr. is involved in organized crime.

"This is business, probably in this case," Landry said, referring to the fact Marriott Jr.

was from a well-known Halifax crime family. "Someone that does this type of a crime ... is more apt to do another one.... Their concern about human life is not significant."

On Tuesday, the province announced it is offering a \$150,000 cash reward through the Major Unsolved Crimes Program for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved in Marriott Jr.'s murder.

On Feb. 20, 2009, the 34-year-old was found shot in his apartment on Whitehead Road in Harrietsfield. He later died of his injuries.

Halifax Regional Police



Terry Marriott Jr. CONTRIBUTED

spokesman Lauren Leal said investigators have exhausted all other resources and are calling on the public to provide any information.

Marriott Jr. was linked to a

Got a tip?

- Anyone with information regarding the Terry Marriott Jr. homicide is asked to call the Rewards for Major Unsolved Crimes Program at 1-888-710-9090.

well-publicized drug feud, according to media reports.

At the time of his death, police could not say if that feud and his homicide were connected.

"Regardless of a victim's criminal past this is a homicide, a very serious incident,"

Need-to-know

Rewards program

The Major Unsolved Crimes Program began in 2006, and so far only two of 67 cases have seen charges laid.

Whether someone receives the full \$150,000 depends on the personal risk they run, how significant the tip is and if it leads to prosecution, Justice Minister Ross Landry said.

HALEY RYAN/METRO

Leal said.

Landry said the decision to offer a reward in Marriott Jr.'s case was based on the need to identify those in criminal circles, and to speed up the investigation.

"This is a tool, nothing

more, nothing less," Landry said. "We want to find a way to close files, reduce costs."

Landry added there is no presumption on who exactly is responsible, and there could be many reasons why Marriott Jr. was shot.



Sky's the limit as temperatures creep upwards

A pair of runners enjoy the unseasonably warm weather in Halifax on Tuesday as they jog up Citadel Hill. Temperatures reached the double-digits for the second day in a row Tuesday as skies cleared from an overnight rain. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

Collision. Car hits, injures pedestrian in crosswalk

A woman in her 40s suffered minor injuries after she was struck in a crosswalk on University Avenue on Tuesday.

Police say the accident happened at about 7 a.m. in the city's south end. The driver of the vehicle has been ticketed for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

This is the latest crosswalk accident in HRM. There have been a handful over the past

By the numbers

4

The number of crosswalk fatalities in HRM for 2012.

few weeks, including one in which a man was killed after being struck on Glendale Drive in Lower Sackville.

METRO

Arrest. Halifax police officer accused of sexually assaulting woman

A Halifax Regional Police officer has been arrested on sexual-assault allegations.

The off-duty officer was taken into custody by members of the Serious Incident Response Team at his home without incident on Tuesday, and later released on a promise to appear with conditions.

Ron MacDonald, director of the provincially run SIRT

Court date

- The officer is due in provincial court on Feb. 13.

program, said they received a complaint from a woman in early November alleging she was sexually assaulted by an officer.

MacDonald said he is not prepared to release the details of the alleged assault as the investigation is ongoing.

"That would be all I would say, that they knew each other," MacDonald said, adding they were not in a domestic partnership. "It's one individual and one individual's actions."

HALEY RYAN/METRO

Truro

Man stabbed in home disturbance

Truro police are investigating a stabbing that occurred on Centre Street Saturday night.

Insp. Robert Hearn said officers were called to a home after a disturbance was reported. Two men in their 20s were injured, with one of them receiving non-life-threatening stab wounds to his back.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

Winter parking ban starts Saturday: HRM

Decrease. Last year saw fewest amount of tickets ever issued



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Last year saw the fewest amount of tickets ever issued to people who violated the overnight winter parking ban.

Michaelyn Thompson,

spokesperson for HRM, said 6,324 tickets were issued in 2011-12, down from 7,810 the year before.

In 2009-10, Thompson said 11,125 tickets were given.

"The tickets have decreased significantly over the years," she said.

Last year saw the first time the ban only put into place when winter weather hit.

Thompson said the city decided to continue the amended winter-parking-ban project into

Considerable drop

1,486

The difference in winter-parking-ban tickets issued between 2010-11 and 2011-12.

this season because "last year wasn't really a good year to base solid evidence on" due to there not being much snow.

The parking ban will run as usual from Dec. 15 to March 31

and will be enforced by the Traffic Authority during "declared snow and ice operations," between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m.

HRM has come up with several ways to alert the public if the ban is put in place. They include residents subscribing to the CityWatch program by emailing citywatch@halifax.ca or by calling 490-7403. Information will also be posted on halifax.ca/snow and on HRM's twitter feed "@hfxgov," or anyone can call 311 for updates.



The overnight winter parking ban is back in effect this weekend. METRO FILE

Cape Breton. Convicted killer testifies at sentencing hearing for 2010 stabbing of girlfriend

A man convicted of second-degree murder insists he has changed since he stabbed his 17-year-old girlfriend to death two years ago.

The man, who can't be named, took to the witness stand Tuesday at the hearing that will determine whether he is sentenced as an adult.

He stabbed his girlfriend more than 100 times inside a Whitney Pier home on Dec. 3, 2010. He was 16 at the time of the offence.

If sentenced as an adult, the Crown has asked that the man receive a life sentence with parole eligibility after seven years.

If sentenced as a youth, he would serve four years in custody and three years under community supervision.

The court has heard that he had substance abuse and behaviour issues from as early as age 12 and he said that prior to the killing he really didn't care about the direction his life was heading, something that has now changed.

"I don't want to sit in the jail the rest of my life. I care what people think now," he

Quoted

"I don't want to sit in the jail the rest of my life. I care what people think now.... I want to amount to something in life."

Man convicted of second-degree murder

told the court.

He said only since the murder has he realized he has anti-social traits and problems with anger. Defence lawyer Darlene MacRury asked him what made him come to that realization.

"This case ... because I took somebody's life," he said.

The man has been involved in three physical altercations with other young people in his two years on remand at Waterville and he is known to have taken the drug Rivotril three times while in custody.

That drug was also in his system when he killed his girlfriend.

CAPE BRETON POST

Truro. Man charged with break-and-enter and damage to property

A 31-year-old Truro man is facing charges of break-and-enter, theft and damage to property after he was arrested early Tuesday morning at a Prince Street residence.

Truro police received a break-and-enter complaint into a vacant home on Prince Street on Monday after the assailant made off with copper piping from the home.

Police received a second call early Tuesday reporting someone entering the same residence equipped with a set of bolt cutters. Officers arrived on scene and made the arrest.

The accused is currently on a conditional sentence order in an unrelated matter and was being held to appear in Truro provincial court on Tuesday.

TRURO DAILY NEWS



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From one corner of the province to the other – on roads big and small – we are Nova Scotia's highway workers.

A message from the Nova Scotia Highway Workers' Union, CUPE Local 1867



Defiant move. North Korea fires rocket in face of global condemnation

North Korea defied international warnings and fired a long-range rocket Wednesday, the second launch under its new leader and a clear sign Pyongyang is pushing forward with its quest to develop the technology needed to deliver a nuclear warhead.

Pyongyang's state media quickly claimed that the country had successfully put a peaceful satellite into orbit with its long-range Unha-3 rocket — the North's stated goal of the launch. But South Korea and Japan said they couldn't immediately confirm that.

The launch was something of a surprise, as North Korea had indicated technical problems with the rocket and recently extended its launch window to Dec. 29.

A rocket expert said North Korea's rocket appeared to have improved on an April launch, which broke apart shortly after liftoff, but that it might be a day before U.S. officials could determine whether a North Korean satellite was circling the Earth.

The United Nations, Washington, Seoul and others see the launch as a cover for a test of technology for missiles that



South Korean soldiers watch a public TV reporting news about North Korea's rocket launch.

AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

could be used to strike the United States.

South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told a national news conference that a South Korean destroyer detected the launch at 9:51 a.m., local time, and the first stage fell into the Yellow Sea about a minute later. It then flew over a South Korean island near the border with North Korea a minute later. It was then seen flying west of Okinawa at 9:58 a.m., and then disappeared from South Korean radars. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Privacy rights. British lawmaker committee slams 'snooper's charter'

British lawmakers on Tuesday demanded the government water down plans to keep track of phone calls, email and Internet activity — a bill critics dub a "snooper's charter."

The Communications Data Bill would force telecoms service providers to retain for a year records of all phone and email traffic and website visits, though not the content of calls and messages.

The data on billions of emails, tweets, texts, calls and Internet hits would be available to police forces, the National Crime Agency and the revenue and customs service. The bill as it stands gives the government the power to extend that access to other agencies.

Home Secretary Theresa

May has called the proposals "sensible and limited" measures to prevent crime and terrorism.

But an all-party parliamentary committee scrutinizing the legislation said the draft bill was "overkill and ... much wider than the specific needs identified by the law enforcement agencies."

"There is a fine but crucial line between allowing our law-enforcement and security agencies' access to the information they need to protect the country, and allowing our citizens to go about their daily business without a fear, however unjustified, that the state is monitoring their every move," said the committee's chair, Conservative peer David Maclean. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Photo hack

B.C. man charged for hacking into pop star's computer

Vancouver police have charged Christopher David Long, 25, of Abbotsford, B.C., with hacking into pop superstar Carly Rae Jepsen's computer and stealing nude photos of her in March.

Long is charged with fraudulently obtaining telecommunications services, unauthorized use of a computer, mischief to obtain data, identity fraud and possession of stolen property.

Police say he surrendered on Friday at the Abbotsford Court House and has been released with conditions until his next court appearance on Jan. 4 in Abbotsford.

KATE WEBB/METRO IN VANCOUVER



Santa filling out underwater wish list

Dressed in a Santa Claus outfit, a diver feeds sardines at the Coex Aquarium in Seoul on Tuesday. Christmas is one of the biggest holidays in South Korea, where more than half of the population are Christians. **AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Stolen iPhone's app captures alleged thief

iFoiled. Owner is sent photo and location of alleged thief via email when they attempt to unlock the phone

It's a cool app that may catch a sticky-fingered iPhone thief in Britain.

A woman is wanted for questioning after she unwittingly took a picture of herself with a stolen iPhone.

Police in Sussex have released a photo of the woman.

They aren't calling her a culprit yet.

"We don't know that the woman is the person who stole the camera, but she obviously has had some connection with it in the meantime and I'd like to speak to her about it," said Sussex officer Gavin Crute in a news release.

The phone had been stolen



This woman is wanted for questioning in the case of a stolen iPhone in Britain.

COURTESY SUSSEX POLICE

from the Coalition nightclub in Brighton, East Sussex earlier this month.

The photo was taken from a

different location.

The owner had an app installed that takes a picture of anyone trying to unlock the

phone and then sends the information back to them via email.

The app, identified by some media outlets to be iGotYa, is not available from the official Apple store.

The camera is activated when a wrong password is entered on the keypad.

Crute said that not only does the app photograph someone trying to unlock the phone, but it maps their location.

"We know where and when the photo was taken and it appears to be in a vehicle with quite a large sunroof," Crute said.

Apple has a free app called Find my iPhone, which shows a stolen phone's approximate location.

It does not, however, take a picture.

A similar story was told in New York last year, when a Queens woman was robbed while walking along a street.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Conditions worsen in Syrian refugee camps as winter looms

Survival. Basic necessities are scarce, from blankets and food to toilets and medical supplies

The tent camp sheltering Syrians uprooted by their country's brutal civil war has lost the race against winter: The ground under white tents is soaked in mud, fights erupt over scarce blankets and volunteer doctors routinely run out of medicine for coughing, runny-nosed children.

The 21-month-old battle to bring down President Bashar Assad has already forced some three million Syrians from their homes, according to a new estimate, and cold, wet winter weather is making life increasingly unbearable for the displaced.

Many of the roughly 12,000 people seeking refuge in the tent camp near the Syrian village of Atmeh on the



Abdullah Ahmed, 10, suffered burns in a Syrian airstrike. He stands outside his family's tent in a village for displaced Syrians on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turkish border fled with just the clothes on their backs, running from intensifying bombing raids by the Syrian air force in recent months.

A 10-year-old boy, Abdul-

lah Ahmed, walked around the camp with a bandaged head and hands after suffering burns during an airstrike on his home.

"I have nothing left ex-

cept the mercy of God," said Mariam Ghraibeh, a 60-year-old war widow whose home in the town of Kafr Awaid, about 140 kilometres to the south, was destroyed in an

airstrike a month ago. Ghraibeh and her family of 15 now huddle in tents, sleeping on thin mattresses on cold plastic.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. recognition

An elevated status

President Barack Obama declared Syria's main opposition group the sole "legitimate representative" of its country's people Tuesday, deeming the move "a big step" in the international diplomatic efforts to end Syrian President Bashar Assad's embattled regime.

Obama said the newly formed Syrian Opposition Council "is now inclusive enough" to be granted the elevated status, paving the way for greater U.S. support. Recognition of the council as the sole representative of Syria's diverse population brings the U.S. in line with Britain, France and several of America's Arab allies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Apple acts

Driving into trouble? There's an app for that!

The city of Mildura is not at the end of a dirt road in the Australian bush, in tire-choking desert sand far from food and water.

But Apple's much-maligned mapping application thinks it is.

More than two months after Apple's CEO apologized for errors in its Maps service, Australian police say the app is "potentially life threatening."

On Tuesday, a police official said Apple had "sort of half-fixed" the problem.

Police say they've had to rescue several Mildura-bound drivers who were directed by the app to remote Murray Sunset National Park, about 70 kilometres away.

Some were stranded for 24 hours without food or water, and had to walk long distances.

The 5,000-square-kilometre park has desert-like conditions, scorching temperatures and has virtually no mobile phone reception.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prank-turned-tragedy may result in charges?

Could the Australian radio station behind a royal hoax phone call face criminal charges for airing the conversation?

The question was being discussed in legal circles Tuesday.

Two DJs from Sydney's 2DayFM who phoned an exclusive London hospital and got confidential information about the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge, who was there suffering from severe morning sickness.

A nurse who answered the call died later — leading to wide criticism of DJs Mel Greig and Michael Christian, who had pretended to be Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles.

The New South Wales state Surveillance Devices Act prohibits the broadcast of recorded private conversations without participants' permission, with violations punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$58,000.



Tearful DJ Mel Greig is shown in video footage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Privacy-law expert Barbara McDonald said the Commercial Radio Code of Practice has a similar ban.

Greig and Christian tear-

fully apologized for the prank in televised interviews, after days of condemnation in countless Internet posts around the world.

The station's parent company, Southern Cross Austereo, also has apologized, and stopped running advertising on 2DayFM after nurse Jacintha Saldanha's death.

On Tuesday it issued a statement announcing that ads would resume Thursday, with all profits for the rest of December to be donated to "an appropriate fund that will directly benefit" Saldanha's family.

The company said it would donate at least 500,000 Australian dollars (\$525,000).

Austereo has repeatedly insisted that it followed the law. The company said in a statement that the segment underwent an internal legal review before it was broadcast.

The company "does not consider that the broadcast of the segment has breached any relevant law, regulation or code," Austereo said, adding it would co-operate with any investigation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not worth the risk?

A Vancouver morning show has decided prank calls aren't worth the risk after the tragedy involving British nurse Jacintha Saldanha.

• No more. Jack FM 96.9 hosts Tara Jean Stevens and Kiah Tucker have put an indefinite moratorium on prank calls.



Shock is etched on the faces of people outside a Portland, Ore.-area shopping mall Tuesday after a gunman wearing camouflage and body armour opened fire. BRUCE ELY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Shots after shots after shots ...'

Pre-Christmas terror.

Shoppers flee in a frenzy of fear as camouflaged gunman opens fire, killing 2

A gunman wearing camouflage and body armour brought terror to a crowded shopping mall Tuesday.

Shoppers screamed and cried, grabbed their children and ran for the nearest doors as shot after shot rang out.

Police said two people — and the gunman — died in the Portland, Ore.-area shooting.

The gunman apparently killed himself. Sheriff's Lt. James Rhodes said police didn't fire any shots.

Kira Rowland said she was shopping at Macy's in the Clackamas Town Center when the shots started.

"All of a sudden you hear two shots, which sounded like balloons popping," Rowland said.

"Everybody got on the ground. I grabbed the baby

from the stroller and got on the ground."

Rowland said she heard people screaming and crying.

"I put the baby back in the stroller and ran like hell," Rowland said. "It was awful. It was shots after shots after shots like a massacre."

Holli Bautista, 28, said she was shopping in Macy's for a Christmas dress.

"I heard people running and screaming and saying 'Get out, there's somebody shooting'," she said.

Macy's employees Pam Moore and Austin Patty said the shooter was short, with dark hair, dressed in camouflage. He had body armour and a rifle and was wearing a white mask, they said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I heard about 20 shots, and everyone hit the ground. That's when we all just ran."

Pam Moore, Macy's employee



Police, ambulance and fire crews flood the scene of the mall shooting. BRUCE ELY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Judges boycott draft vote: Egypt

Egypt's judges Tuesday said that most of them would not oversee a nationwide referendum on a contentious draft constitution, as tens of thousands of opponents and supporters of the country's Islamist president staged rival rallies in Cairo, four days ahead of the vote.

The demonstrations and judges' boycott came hours after masked assailants set upon opposition protesters staging a sit-in at Tahrir Square, firing birdshot and swinging knives and sticks, according to security officials. They later said that five "hardened criminals" were arrested in connection with the attack.

Eleven protesters were



A supporter of President Mohammed Morsi in Cairo Tuesday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

wounded, the MENA state news agency said, citing a Health Ministry spokesman.

By the numbers

90%

Judges' Club chairman Ahmed el-Zind said that 90 per cent of the nation's judges would not oversee the Saturday vote, casting doubt on the process's legitimacy.

The violence served as a stark reminder of the stakes in Egypt's political battle over the disputed draft constitution, which goes to a nationwide referendum on Saturday. The charter has deeply polarized the nation and triggered some of the worst street violence since Morsi took office in June as Egypt's first freely elected president.

On one side of the divide, there is President Mohammed Morsi, his Muslim Brotherhood and ultra-orthodox Salafis, while on the other side there is a collection of liberals, leftists and Christians who claim the draft charter restricts freedoms and gives Islamists vast influence over the running of the country.

Ahmed el-Zind, the chairman of the Judges' Club, said Tuesday that 90 per cent of the nation's judges would not oversee the Saturday vote. The move is unlikely to stop the referendum from taking place, but it does cast further doubt on the legitimacy of the drafting process and, ultimately, the document itself.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mali

PM ousted by military junta

Soldiers arrested Mali's prime minister and forced him to resign before dawn on Tuesday, showing that the military remains the real power in this troubled West African nation despite handing back authority to civilians after a coup in March.

The prime minister's ouster comes as the United Nations considers backing a military intervention in Mali, a once-stable country now in constant turmoil. The development raises questions about the viability of the operation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Illness

Mandela still ailing in hospital

Military doctors are treating South Africa's former President Nelson Mandela for a recurring lung infection, an ailment the 94-year-old anti-apartheid leader remains susceptible to because of his age and his 27 years in prison.

Government officials acknowledged for the first time Tuesday that the illness forced soldiers to admit Mandela to a military hospital on Saturday, though they said the politician was responding to treatment.

Mandela fought off a similar infection in 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEC 14 & 15

ON DASHER ON DANCER ON PRANCER ON VIXEN
ON COMET ON CUPID ON DONNER ON BLITZEN
ON STEPHEN ON BRUCE ON JEFFREY ON TERRY
ON RONALD ON PAUL ON BRIAN ON JOHNATHAN!

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BIA steps up campaign to woo Colbert

'Earth's rectum' furor. With new video, locals make last-ditch attempt at convincing comedian to host holiday parade



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro in Windsor

With less than four days to go until its inaugural Santa Claus parade, the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association is hoping a new video will convince Stephen Colbert to play host.

Quoted

"We've been given a clean bill of health."

Larry Horwitz, chair of the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association, who claims a 'geoprotologist' has examined Windsor and found that the city isn't the Earth's rectum after all.

Filmed by Marshall Sfalcin and starring BIA chair Larry Horwitz, the video is the latest missive in a campaign that began last month when Colbert responded on his show to the brouhaha over his referencing of Windsor, Ont., as "the Earth's rec-

tum" in his new book *America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't*. (He told viewers he could just as easily have been talking about Winnipeg.)

Since then, Horwitz has been trying to get the American comedian to cross the border and serve as the grand marshal of the new holiday parade.

Although filmed "entirely in Windsor," the video tells the tale of Horwitz's journey to New York to deliver a box full of

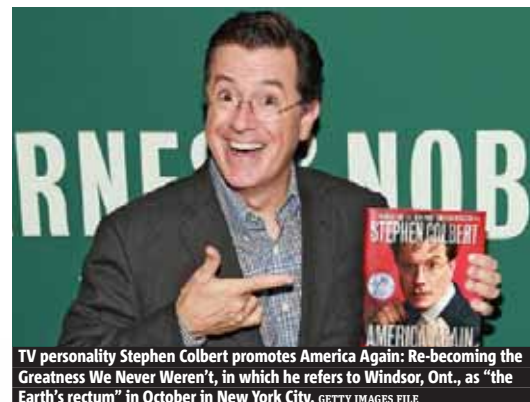
Online

Watch the video at metronews.ca.



adrian goodies to Colbert. Along the way, he encounters rude baristas and has a run-in with security at Colbert's Comedy Central studios.

The downtown Santa Claus Parade is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Saturday. Colbert has not yet responded to the BIA's request.



TV personality Stephen Colbert promotes *America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't*, in which he refers to Windsor, Ont., as "the Earth's rectum" in October in New York City. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Canada Post. Holiday rush brings onslaught of mail – and griping

It's supposed to be a time when festive packages are delivered with care and yuletide greeting cards are opened with glee.

But for some Canada Post customers — and the postal employees who have to deal with their complaints — it's not exactly the hap-happiest time of the year.

As the volume of letters and parcels being delivered by the Crown corporation reaches massive levels over the holidays, so, too, does the griping.

When Canada Post issued a release on its Facebook page on Dec. 3, urging people to check international send-by dates for Christmas packages, there were dozens of not-so-kind replies from people bitterly upset about lost parcels, late deliveries and high postage costs.

Faster technology has made it easier to locate packages, but has also raised people's expectations of how quickly

their goods should arrive, said Canada Post spokeswoman Anick Losier. "Our No. 1 call to customer service is 'Where's my parcel?' — the day before it's due," she said.

"We're now in a world where we're or-

dering online and the next thing we do is go track our parcel to see where it's at."

"We call it the 'Generation-I-Want-It-Now.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

96%

Canada Post says it has an on-time delivery rate of 96 to 98 per cent, depending on the time of year and the way an item is delivered.

Economic status. Poorest Canadians see few gains in absolute income

Income inequality in Canada has remained steady since 1998, according to the traditional benchmark, but absolute dollar gains by the country's highest earners have far out-

stripped the gains by those at the bottom, a report by TD Bank said on Tuesday.

Even though the poorest saw a slightly larger per-

centage gain in income, absolute gains — the number of dollars in a person's pocket — tell a different story, said TD Bank chief economist Craig Alexander.

"Although the traditional benchmark of income inequality isn't showing an increase, the absolute levels of income matter enormously," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

\$15,200

The after-inflation level of income of those in the bottom 20 per cent rose to only \$15,200 in 2010 from \$12,700 in 1998.

Facebook. Hunger Games tops pop-culture mentions in 2012

The Hunger Games, the teen survival movie based on the Suzanne Collins book of the same name, tops the list of the most talked-about pop-culture events by Canadians on Facebook in 2012, the social-media network says.

"Most talked about" means mentioned in status updates or posted as a video or story link. The company does not disclose numbers, only rankings.

More than 18 million Canadians are active Facebook users. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

2012's most mentioned

- **No. 1** Hunger Games film
- **No. 2** The Avengers film
- **No. 3** Television show The Walking Dead
- **No. 4** The Feb. 11 death of Whitney Houston
- **No. 5** Failed Republican U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney

Air travel

Delta shells out \$360M for stake in Virgin Atlantic

Delta Air Lines is grabbing a bigger share of the world's most important travel route: New York to London.

The airline is paying \$360 million for almost half of Virgin Atlantic, the swanky airline founded by Sir Richard Branson in 1984. Business travellers are hungry for flights on that route and Delta has been missing out on the market.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Labour negotiations

CP Rail, Teamsters reach 5-year deal

Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. and Teamsters Canada have reached a new five-year labour agreement covering 2,600 workers.

The union says the tentative deal includes three per cent annual wage increases, a curtailment of outsourcing and increased benefits. The employees covered by the new contract maintain, repair and build tracks, bridges and other structures for the railway.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online health services

WebMD to cut jobs by 14%

Health website operator WebMD plans to cut about 14 per cent of its workforce as part of a push to reduce costs.

The New York company says the cuts amount to about 250 positions and will save about \$45 million in annual operating expenses. WebMD provides health and benefits information to consumers, employers, doctors and health plans.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
101.40¢ (+0.08¢)

TSX
12,282.36 (+51.88)

OIL
\$85.79 US (+23¢)

GOLD
\$1,709.60 US (-\$4.80)

Natural gas: \$3.41 (-5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,248.44 (+78.56)

CAGE CLOSED ON IKEA MONKEY



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Is the monkey over yet?

For 15 minutes, the Ikea Monkey was the most famous monkey in the world, the toast of everyone from Warren Kinsella to Anderson Cooper.

There he was last Sunday, larking around a Toronto Ikea parking lot in his cute little shearling coat and diaper, searching for the meatball special, distracting us for one brief monkeyshines moment, from the end of the world (Dec. 21) or the fiscal cliff (Jan. 1). If the Mayans don't get us, the U.S. Congress will.

I mean, come on. How could you resist the combination of a place where you buy rättviken sinks and ektorp sofa beds with a baby monkey named Darwin who brushes his teeth before he goes to bed and wears a Wizard of Oz-winged monkey costume for Halloween?

It was all fun until the authorities stepped in. They confiscated the coat and sent him to Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, north of Toronto. Arguably the story gets better. Now, Darwin, stripped of his raiment, has to learn to be a real monkey all over again. He'll have to bond with the other monkeys, and he'll have to do it without his 'nuck-nuck (baby pacifier).

Darwin's owner is distraught. Darwin is, after all, seven months old, and

needs his mommy, even if his mommy has a little trouble telling one primate species from another. Now Darwin has gone to live on the back of some other confused primate. Sanctuary staff are hoping that will be Sweet Pea, a baboon rescued from a roadside zoo.

As you might imagine, Sweet Pea has issues, but she loves to nurture things — kittens, fake fur, naugahyde, so cute little Darwin is just the thing.

The owner is a lawyer, and, naturally, she's considering legal action to get her monkey back. When you're a hammer, everything looks like a nail, but she should be careful what she sues for.

Cute little baby rhesus monkeys grow into cute, 50-centimetre-tall adults that carry diseases and fling their feces. She might want to leave Darwin up in Sunderland, cavorting with the lemurs (cue King Julien doing the morning exercise routine: "I like to move it, move it!")

So that's it for Darwin, although he does leave a Twitter account and Facebook page behind, but he'll have to update his status from "free-ramblin'" to "caged."

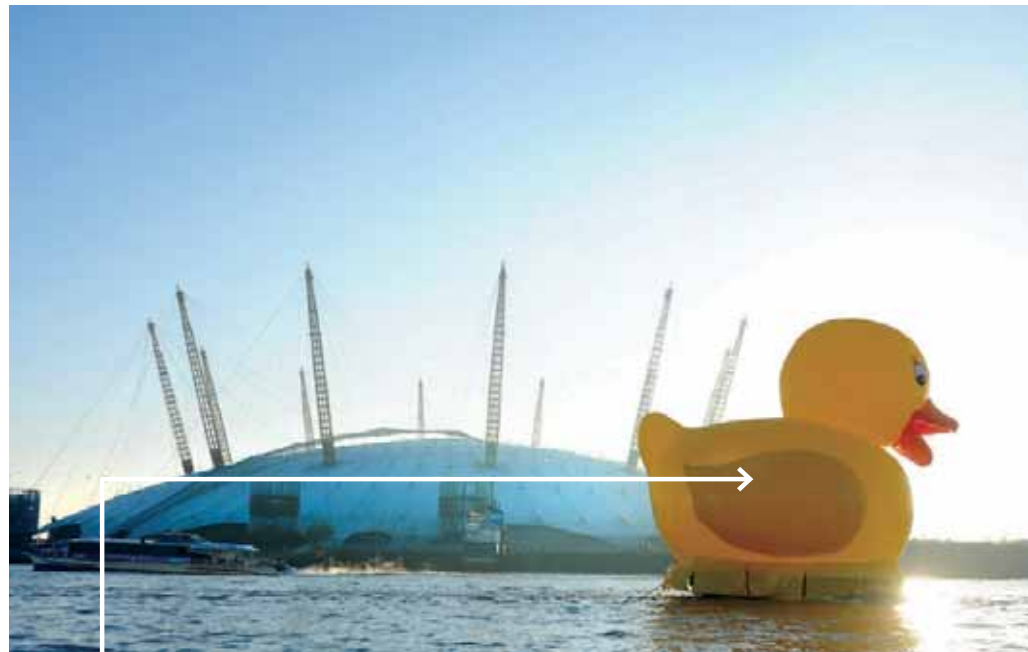
As for the rest of us, we'll find some other Internet meme to distract us. But it will be a long time before that poignant picture of that little guy wandering around the Ikea parking lot looking for the ball room fades from memory.

A long time. At least another 15 minutes.



Darwin will have to adjust to living like a monkey at Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, Ont. NIAH SCALLAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rubber ducky, you're the big one



FACEBOOK FUNDATION/JACKPOTJOY.COM

Duck tales

Massive duck sails through London

Londoners were treated to an unusual spectacle Tuesday as a giant 15-metre rubber duck floated down

the River Thames.

The oversized bath toy got special treatment as the iconic Tower Bridge opened to allow it to sail through. The gigantic bird was launched to publicize a \$400,000 bursary to encourage Brits to have more fun. **METRO**



According to research commissioned by the FUNdation, British adults laugh 7.2 times a day on average, but psychologists say we should laugh 15 times a day for optimal health and happiness.

LEWIS WHYLD/PA WIRE/PRESS ASSOCIATION IMAGES

Rubber ducks in the past

Bath toys outline ocean currents

In 1992, a container with 29,000 plastic bath toys fell off a cargo ship in the Pacific Ocean and broke open. The rubber ducks eventually washed up on shores in Japan, Hawaii and North America.

By studying the ocean currents, oceanographer Curtis Ebbesmeyer correctly predicted their trip via the Northwest Passage to Great Britain. **METRO**

Quoted

"We now want people to send us their own entries of wacky things they'd like to do, and we'll provide funding for the best ones."

Barbara Windsor, actress and patron of Jackpotjoy.com's new Facebook FUNdation bursary



Twitter

@marissarait: why does everywhere else have snow except Halifax? #Halifornia

@eonsmom1981: Beautiful day in Halifax, sunny & 18C -and it's December 11th! I can handle a winter like this :)

@menavem: ...when the weather outside's delightful, but the mall's so very frightful #WTF #halifax #christmas #climatechange

@DanaLong1: This unseasonably warm weather in #halifax makes me want to reconsider moving to #toronto next month. Hah just kidding..

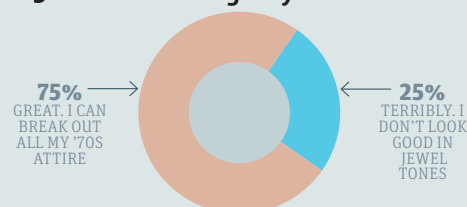
@Cfraser07: Anticipating a couple parking tickets this weekend in Halifax... #cantavoidit #winterban #brutal

@klhalifax: Enjoying the #Nutcracker luncheon in support of Phoenix Youth Programs in #Halifax. Wonderful annual event.



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Emerald is Pantone's colour of the year for 2013. How does that grab you?



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Never too late for a series spinoff

Television. Some of the best shows of our generation could still stand the test of time if they were converted into a new series

MIKE
DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Time has a way of stoking retro fever and nostalgia mining has a deep drill bit. It used to be conventional wisdom that you had a limited window to spinoff a TV show and breathe new life into departing characters before their cache cooled.

Frasier's 11 season run got started the same year Cheers stopped serving drinks and Buffy's vampire boy-toy Angel staked a claim on his own show while the slayer was



Boy Meets World could meet Girl Meets World in a revisiting of the once-popular series. HANDOUT

still only halfway through stabbing Sunnydale's undead population.

The 1990s coming-of-age comedy Boy Meets World has

been off the air for a dozen years, but it looks like this TV graveyard corpse is about to get reanimated with original stars Ben Savage and Danielle

Fishel on board.

Girl Meets World will revisit Cory and Topanga in the present day where they now have a 13-year-old daughter.

This development leaves us wondering; what other long-ago put-to-pasture series are ready to wake up and smell the future?

Steering Urkel back to fame

With Big Bang Theory garnering stratospheric ratings, it's clear there's more room for geeks in primetime. Fashion finally caught up with Steve Urkel's once gauche cardigans and plaid button downs that used to set him apart from the crowd.

The former TGI Friday mainstay is decidedly hipster in modern times, and adulthood has ironed out his voice's squeakiness so he doesn't even need his nerd-suppressing alter ego Stefan to make the ladies swoon.

The Pilot: Hired as the CEO of Virgin Galactic, Urkel struggles to keep one foot on the ground in Chicago where he



and Laura are raising a brood of wily little Urkelos and the other in orbit catering to the whims of wealthy space tourists. Good thing his father-in-law Carl Winslow is still around to steer him in the right direction.



Friend to an Acquaintance

Watching present day Monica, Chandler and company reunite at Central Perk and yuk it up would be interesting television for about five minutes. Rather than dwell on past relationships already fleshed out over the course of 200-plus episodes, Acquaintances breaks new ground by focusing on the still loosely intertwined lives of the core cast of Friends. The hitch

is they play caricatures of their slightly past-their-prime real-life selves a la Matt LeBlanc on Episodes.

The Pilot: Courtney Cox begs Jennifer Aniston to appear on Cougar Town, which in the show's universe has switched networks once again and is hanging on by a thread. Jen relents, but not before making Courtney alpha-betize her stack of Sexiest Woman Alive magazine appearances and polish her Golden Globe.

The XY Files

Flirty David Duchovny is much more palatable than spooky Duchovny. Besides, the Californication star is way more believable unzipping little black dresses and puffing post coitus cigs than chasing little grey men and attempting to see the truth behind smoking man's kabuki theatre.

The Pilot: A mysterious pandemic has winnowed the world's male population down to just 10 per

cent, leaving virile men in high demand. Working in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control who discovered the virus was man-made, the FBI responds by opening the XY Files, a new task force intent on apprehending the culprits. Groaning sci-fi fans will be placated by the presence of Gillian Anderson's shrewd disapproving gaze as well as fanboy jaw droppers Katee Sackoff and Summer Glau thrown in.



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Before a prequel was a silver screen prequel

Hollywood. Filling in the backstory isn't something unique to movies, but it has been fully adopted by today's film industry



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

It would be tempting to think the words sequel and prequel are the creation of Hollywood marketers looking for new ways to describe old ideas. But the notion of a prequel, a movie that provides the backstory of an existing story, like this weekend's *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, is not a Tinsel Town contrivance.

The first prequel appeared in the late 7th century BCE.

The Cypria, an epic of ancient Greek literature, is the story of the origins of the Trojan War and serves as an introduction to the Iliad even though it was written after the Homer epic was already in print.

The word prequel first appeared in 1958 in an article in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* but didn't catch on until it was used to describe *Butch and Sundance: The Early Days* in 1979.

The Star Wars New Hope trilogy are the most famous movie prequels, but Hollywood has been looking back to extend the lives of their franchises for decades.

The 1966 Clint Eastwood spaghetti western *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*, the final film of the *Man With No Name* trilogy, is a prequel to *A Fistful of Dollars* and *For a Few Dollars More*.

It wasn't billed as such, but by the time Eastwood assem-

Quoted

The notion of a prequel, a movie that provides the backstory of an existing story, like this weekend's *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, is not a Tinsel Town contrivance.

bles his iconic poncho outfit (which he wore in all three movies without replacement or cleaning) it's obvious we are at the beginning of his

journey, not the end.

The title of another movie was more obvious about its origins.

The Texas Chainsaw Mas-

sacre: *The Beginning* is the story of the roots of Leatherface, the human-skin-mask-wearing baddie of the original film. There's all the cannibalism and murder you expect from a Texas Chainsaw movie, but the grisly birth scene kicks it up to another level.

Escape from the Planet of the Apes, the third of five films in the original Apes series, came after the Earth was destroyed by a nuclear

blast in the second movie. To keep the franchise alive, a story was created that saw apes travelling back in time which sounds forced but *Variety* called it "an excellent film, almost as good as the original Planet of the Apes."

The *Godfather Part II* manages to be both a prequel and a sequel at the same time. Flipping between the past and present, it's a powerful story of one family's descent into corruption.



The Hobbit opens in theatres everywhere this weekend. HANDOUT

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Pamela Anderson

Pamela Anderson in deep over taxes

Pamela Anderson is in hot water with the IRS. Two tax liens were recently filed against the former Baywatch star totaling more than \$370,000, according to TMZ.

The IRS claims Anderson owes just over \$250,000,

with the rest coming from a filing by the state of California. Still, the total is something of an improvement for Anderson, who was added to California's list of the top 250 debtors in 2010, when she reportedly owed more than \$493,000.

Twitter



@kirstiealley

Dear PA who rang the gate with a script at 3 AM...notice mailbox to the left of driveway...NOTICE the actress with a Glock in upstairs window



@NiallOfficial

Sittin at home! Bored t death!



@Mruff221

I got a text from Joss Whedon the other day. Sounds like he is writing some very interesting stuff for Banner and his alter ego The Hulk.



@AlbertBrooks

By not tweeting I have gained substantially more followers.



Kristen Stewart

Stewart is cool with getting naked, OK?

Kristen Stewart is sick and tired of all the attention her nude scenes in *On the Road* are getting. "I do hate also when people go, 'Oh wow, great performance. So brave,'" she tells the Huffington Post. "Because I'm naked? That's annoying. But at the same time, if that's what they're focusing on, then *On the Road* probably isn't for

them anyway." Stewart is a diehard fan of the Jack Kerouac novel on which the film is based, which meant she had no hesitation about doing the more revealing scenes. "This book celebrates being alive and it celebrates being human, and if you want to cover up and deny any aspect of that, you are denying the spirit of the book."



Harry Styles

One Direction isn't too keen on Swift's private jet

Taylor Swift's fledgling romance with Harry Styles appears to already be causing strife among his One Direction bandmates. So what's got them all worked up? Travel arrangements, it turns out. After the band's stay in New York, Styles reportedly headed back to England with Swift on her private jet while the rest of the band travelled separately, according to E! News. "The rest of the band were a bit annoyed about the whole thing," a source says. "They took a Virgin commercial flight and there were tons of spare seats on the jet. They were a bit miffed that Harry chose to go with her instead of them. They had just finished a huge concert in New York and all of them were on a high. The fact that he left them to travel solo irritated them a bit."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



A look back: Celebrity engagements of 2012



THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Despite the fact that every single person in Hollywood gets divorced, these true-believers decided to throw caution to the wind and become betrothed. We look at the big ones:

last forever (actually, yes, yes it does). The Hunger Games actor proposed to Cyrus in May, three years after they started dating, with a 3.5-carat diamond ring. Wedding date: Eh, you REALLY think this one is going to happen?

Hilaria Thomas and Alec Baldwin

The deets: The two love birds got engaged in April, less than a year after they first met.

Wedding date: It actually already happened (Baldwin moves fast). The two were wed in June in New York City.

Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger

The deets: The two got engaged in August, surprising a lot of fans (and gossip columnists) who didn't even know they were dating. "Things just clicked real quick," Kroeger, the lead singer of Nickelback, told a radio station about Lavigne.

Wedding date: I'm kind of getting the vibe they'll skip the wedding and just go straight to procreating Canadian royalty.

Evan Rachel Wood and Jamie Bell

The deets: The two got engaged in January. They met while starring in a Green Day music video; they broke up when she moved on with Marilyn Manson and reconnected when her engagement to the goth rocker ended. **Wedding date:** Already happened! They were married on Halloween in California. "It was a small ceremony with close family and friends," said her rep in a statement.

Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus

The deets: They might be young (he's 22, she's 20) but that doesn't mean they won't

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It's coming to Canada, and it's staying here too. Cheers could be heard in households throughout the country when it was announced that The Amazing Race Canada would follow Canadians traipsing the true north strong and free while competing in challenges. Debuting next summer, producers promise the show will be a love letter to Canada, but haven't revealed which areas of the country will be featured. Here are five worthy location suggestions, along with challenge ideas too.

MAE BOWRING
life@metronews.ca



SUBARCTIC MIKE/FICKR

Canoeing the South Nahanni River

Breathtaking mountain ranges, falls twice the height of Niagara, hot springs and gorgeous flora and fauna can all be viewed along the Nahanni in the North West Territories. Contestants would be challenged with trying to stay afloat through rapids as they navigate the river's four canyons.

Mountain Biking in Whistler

Skiers and snowboarders flock to the snow-capped mountains of British Columbia in the winter months, but during the summer, it's all about biking. With courses that feature sharp turns, rugged terrain and stomach-in-your-throat drops, it's not for the faint of heart. The team who makes it to the bottom of the course first in one piece wins.

5 Canadian Amazing Race destinations

Driving the Cabot Trail

Arguably the country's most scenic drive, the highway features stunning vistas and wildlife as it weaves throughout Eastern Canada. Contestants would have to work a shift at one of the bed and breakfasts along the route, catering to fellow tourists. The team that gets the highest marks for service wins the challenge.

Scavenger Hunt through Kensington Market

A multicultural and national historic site in Toronto, even the odd-est item on a shopping list can be found among the eclectic shops and market merchants. To prove the point, contestants would be given an obscure list of food and clothing items to buy and the first team to get all of them would win.



MARKYEG/FICKR

Survivor in the Thousand Islands

A picturesque destination for vacationers wanting to get away from it all, the thousand islands is known for its picture-frame worthy sunsets. Contestants would be tasked with navigating small sailboats along the Saint Lawrence River until they find an uninhabited island. The first group to start a small fire wins.

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New Fantasyland makes dreams come true

Disney. Fans of Florida's park have a new section to explore with the site's largest expansion in its history

Derrick Weitlich and his friend Leslie Martinez arrived at the Magic Kingdom at 5:40 a.m. last Thursday, wanting to be among the first to visit the park's New Fantasyland.

Getting up early was worth it, said these Melbourne, Fla., Disney fans, who estimated that they have visited the park some 180 times.

"I love Beauty and the Beast," said Martinez, while standing in front of the new Gaston's Tavern restaurant. "And I'm very picky when it comes to details about Beauty and the Beast."

Martinez and Weitlich weren't disappointed. From the antlers lining the walls in the tavern to the animatronic Ariel in the Under the Sea-Journey of the Little Mermaid ride, they were impressed with the New Fantasyland.

It's the largest expansion project in the park's 41-year history. The new spaces are built on what was once the site of the 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea experience, and the expansion doubles the size of the original Fantasyland.

The central Florida theme park near Orlando is blending classic Disney characters (like Dumbo, the flying elephant) and newer, popular hits (like The Little Mermaid) with the multi-million dollar expansion.

"It's really about immersing people in a number of stories, characters and music that they love," said Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Tom Staggs.

New Fantasyland sits just past Cinderella Castle, with two sections: Enchanted Forest, where visitors will find Belle from Beauty and the Beast and Ariel from The Little Mermaid, and Storybook Circus, which is inspired by the Disney film Dumbo.

Among the highlights: A ride called Under the Sea — Journey of the Little Mermaid, which tells Ariel's story, and Enchanted Tales With Belle, a walk-through experience that features

Tradition lives on

For Disney traditionalists, never fear. Many of the park's longstanding beloved attractions like Cinderella Castle, and rides based on It's a Small World and The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh, remain open.

a magical mirror and costumed characters.

Staggs said that the expansion allows families to "be a little more relaxed" while in the park, calling the spaces "more enjoyable."

Thursday's grand opening happened twice: Once for media and bloggers in front of Gaston's Tavern and then again on the steps of Cinderella Castle, with cheering park visitors. Staggs was joined by actress Ginnifer Goodwin, singer Jordin Sparks and, of course, Mickey Mouse. Sparks sang a medley of songs from Disney movies.

Two of the New Fantasyland's highlights have yet to open. A ride called Seven Dwarfs Mine Train is still under construction, as is Prin-



Gaston's Tavern, part of the New Fantasyland, is inspired by Beauty and the Beast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

cess Fairytale Hall — where guests can go to meet all of their favourite Disney princesses at once.

Disney officials said the princess experience will open next year and the ride

is expected to open in 2014.

Be Our Guest Restaurant is new, and offers a different Disney concept. Folks who eat lunch will be served at the counter, while dinner guests will be served tableside. It

will also serve wine and beer with dinner, which is the first time alcohol is being sold at the Magic Kingdom. The meals at Be Our Guest are French-themed.

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Five ways to save money on sun trips

Hot deals. Want to beat the winter blahs? Metro finds out how to get the best bang for your buck



LOREN
CHRISTIE
life@metronews.ca

Hoping to enjoy a little sunshine this winter without breaking the bank? Here are five tips to help you find the best deal while planning your up-coming vacation.

Travel during non-peak times

If you are headed to the United States, avoid an early morning departure, which is rush hour for business travellers, and take a mid-day flight. Looking for good value on a seven day holiday at an all-inclusive resort? Consider giving up your weekend departure and going Wednesday to Wednesday as

rates are often lower for those willing to fly mid-week. Happily the experience is the same.

Jump on new routes

Airlines and tour operators that are expanding to different destinations often give introductory discounts to encourage travellers to give them a try. For example, adventurecenter.com is offering a 10 per cent discount on their Cycling Cuba trip. Don't think about it too long, travel must be booked before Dec. 31, 2012.

Ask your hotel what their optional fees are and ensure you are billed accordingly

Resort fees, early check ins/late check outs, daily newspaper and internet charges on your room are all examples of fees you could avoid. If you can't live without your Facebook friends, go to a local wifi hot spot and log on for free.

Be loyal

Joining a loyalty program can lead to a whole range of value-added perks like free internet, a room up-grade at your hotel

All-inclusive tip

"Consider giving up your weekend departure and going Wednesday to Wednesday as rates are often lower."

and eventually the option to redeem your stash of accumulated points for a free vacation. Not all loyalty programs are created equal, so do your research when signing up. The bank rewards programs tend to be the best.

Book early or book late

If you know exactly where you want to go then don't hesitate to take advantage of any early booking bonuses you may find.

By waiting until the last minute, you will find some great deals, but your choices will be very limited.

Playing the last minute game is only recommended for flexible travellers. Check out itravel2000.com's Daily Deals highlight list.



Try new travel options, like cycling in Cuba, which are often discounted to encourage travellers to give them a try. LAURA512/FLICKR

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Kelsey Goforth
Graduate
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TalentEgg.ca

What's your school-to-work transition story?

While pursuing my undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto, I studied political science with an emphasis on human rights and international development. This past summer I was finishing up my final credit and was searching for the perfect summer job that would hopefully lead me into a career field directly related to these interests.

I was aware that a company called Public Outreach fundraised for developmental and human rights organizations and I had always been intrigued by the fundraisers that I had seen, but didn't picture myself taking on such a role.

However, on the advice of a friend, I applied. The role definitely surprised me. I had no idea how much I would be learning about various not-

for-profit charities and how many amazing conversations I would have with donors. One highlight is when I met a woman from Zimbabwe who actually received aid from one of the charities I was fundraising for.

The position turned into far more than a summer job when roles in the recruitment department opened up. I began applying and eventually, in August, I took on the role of U.S. Recruiter, where I was responsible for recruitment in Boston, Chicago, New York City and Minneapolis. I was able to transition quite quickly to my new role, going from fundraiser to recruiter in three short months. Being able to learn about the inner-workings of a whole new department has given me the opportunity to better understand and appreciate all that the company does.

What am I doing now?

I am currently in my fourth month as a Public Outreach Recruiter. In addition to my U.S. recruitment duties, I also contribute blog posts to our staff website. Outside of work, I like to pursue other interests that not only appeal to me but also give me an additional skill set to include on resu-



Kelsey Goforth. PROVIDED

més and applications. I write articles for TalentEgg and, additionally, I am beginning French courses in January in order to receive a certificate in french proficiency. Although I currently have a job, I do not want to prevent myself from continuing to learn more and develop my skills.

My recommendations for employers, career centres and schools

When it comes to campus career centres and their related programs, it is important to be well-advertised and easily accessible. Students are busy with classes and extra-curriculars, so having flexible hours

is imperative. Secondly, many programs at schools aren't given the exposure they deserve. Often students are bombarded with information in their first year, however by the time fourth year rolls around and the job search becomes more intense, these programs are long forgotten about. When students approach their final years of education, universities and colleges should remind them that there is plenty of guidance and resources available.

My advice for students and recent graduates

- Get involved: As a student, it is important to think beyond essays and exams, and also take the time to get involved in your community. I personally found extra-curricular activities and volunteering to be extremely beneficial — both when it came to developing new skills as well as seeking employment.

- The importance of networking: The job market is competitive. Learning to write an impressive resumé is a great skill, however a piece of paper can only go so far. For me, networking has been the most effective means of

both connecting with people with similar interests and landing new jobs.

- Don't underestimate your skills: Take a chance when it comes to your job applications. Often students and recent graduates feel either under- or over-qualified for certain positions.

- Don't underestimate the experiences you have: Although you may be a recent graduate, your education, community involvement and past jobs all culminate to make you an excellent applicant. When applying for jobs you feel under-qualified for, keep in mind that the worst that can happen is being rejected.

- Don't overlook great opportunities: If I thought that being one of "those people on the street with the binders" was somehow beneath me, I wouldn't have been given the opportunity to work within the recruitment department. To grow with a company, it is important to start small and work your way up. It is only logical.

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A very Colombian Christmas

Although many Canadian families have classic traditions for this time of year, it can be fun to spice things up with recipes from international hot spots.

Known for its historical urban centres, stunning beaches and Spanish night-life, Colombia also has a lot to offer — even in the kitchen.

The country boasts scrumptious yuletide dishes that even the most amateur

Ingredients

- 150 g uchuva (cape gooseberry), chopped
- 50 g pistachio, finely chopped
- 15 g cilantro, finely chopped
- 50 g shallot, finely chopped
- 50 ml extra virgin olive oil

For the pork:

- Pork tenderloin, cleaned
- Salt and black pepper
- 30 ml sunflower or grape seed oil
- 60 g butter
- 100 g uchuva, sliced
- 12 g thyme
- 8 garlic cloves
- 12 uchivas, thinly sliced for garnish

Pork Tenderloin and Uchuva Pesto



Wow your guests with the use of uchuva (gooseberry) in this main dish. PROEXPORT COLOMBIA.

chef can prepare to impress guests by turning a typical holiday party into the ultimate fiesta. One of them is this Pork Tenderloin and Uchuva Pesto.

The “cape gooseberry,” commonly known in Colombia as uchuva, can be found in local grocery stores.

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F (205 C).

2. In bowl, combine the first five ingredients to prepare the uchuva pesto and set aside.

3. Slice the pork tender-

loin into 6 portions and season with salt and black pepper.

4. Heat a heavy oven-proof skillet on high heat for 2 minutes and add half of the oil. Sear 3 portions of tenderloin and cook until brown on one side. Turn to sear the other side and add half of the sliced uchivas, butter, thyme and garlic and allow the butter to melt

completely in the pan.

5. Lower the heat to low. Tilting the pan forward, cover the tenderloins with the butter-uchuva mixture for 2 minutes. Place on a plate, clean skillet and repeat cooking procedure for the other portions of meat.

6. Place the first three portions back on the skillet and place in the oven. Cook for approximately 10 to 12 minutes. Remove the skillet from the oven and place the tenderloins on a rack to cool for 10 minutes.

7. Place the pork slices on a serving platter. Cover generously with the uchuva pesto and garnish with thinly sliced uchuva.

Colombia's sweet side

metronews.ca

- For delicious Uchuva Angel Food Cup Cakes and an Exotic Fruit Cake, visit metronews.ca/food



PROEXPORT COLOMBIA

Drink of the Week

Uchuva Cocktail

- 150 grams whole uchuva (cape gooseberries)
- 150 ml water
- 150 g sugar
- 360 ml gin
- 540 ml sparkling wine, cold
- 18 uchivas, for muddling
- 24 mint leaves, for muddling
- 220 grams of ice
- Mint sprigs, for garnish

To make syrup, combine sugar and water in saucepan and cook over medium heat until sugar completely dissolves.

Cool syrup in freezer. Combine uchivas and syrup in blender and process on high 1 min. Pass mix through fine mesh strainer and discard solids.

In pitcher, combine 180 ml of uchuva syrup, mint leaves and 18 uchivas and muddle, 2 mins.

Strain syrup and discard mint and uchuva pulp. Add gin and ice to syrup and stir 1 min. to chill; strain out ice.

To serve, add sparkling wine, stir and divide the cocktail into 6 champagne flutes. Decorate each flute with a mint sprig.

PROEXPORT COLOMBIA



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CONVENIENCE AND VARIETY

GIFT CARDS GIVE RECIPIENTS OPTIONS

Michael Bennett is an occasional gift card giver.

"I sometimes give them as thank you gifts or stocking stuffers," says the Guelph, Ont., man. "They're convenient and easy to give. The downside of them is they're easy to rely on them rather than discovering what someone likes and choosing a gift they would appreciate."

What is it about gift cards that we love so much? Is it the fact that we can buy them virtually anywhere? At a variety of price points in a variety of outlets?

"People generally know what type of store their friends or kids like to shop at," says Frances Ho, founder of Canadian site cardswap.ca. "However, they don't know specifically what sweater they prefer or the right pair of jeans. People are very particular about those things. It's just easier to give a card to a store they know

they're going to enjoy."

While Ho believes it's more socially acceptable to give gift cards, she does believe it makes a difference in how you present it as a gift.

"If you combine a gift card with a really nice written message in the card, or wrapping it in a big box, it's really the effort that counts. Then it still has a warmth to it," she says.

They are also a nice way to give something to a gift that's too pricey.

"That's another benefit — if they're saving up for a larger item and the person can't afford to give you the large item, but they can give you a gift card towards," Ho says.

Gift cards do have their drawbacks, of course. Some come with expiry dates for example.

"And a lot of people tend to spend

more money when they spend their gift cards because they treat it like it's free cash. And then they end up spending more than they actually budgeted for," Ho says.

However, you can make your gift card dollar stretch by watching for sales or deals — buy a gift card and pick up a gift for yourself for free, for example. Or re-gift a card that's not a fit for you or take it to a site such as cardswap.ca where you can trade your card in for points or cash.

"We see a variety of gift cards come in and whenever we post things on the site, they're gone within 24 hours because someone else wants that card," Ho says.

— Astrid Van
Den Broek



CONTRIBUTED

ENLIGHTEN YOURSELF THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

There is a popular saying at Enlighten Laser and Skin Care Clinic the team likes to say.

"It's more than skin deep for us, too," says owner/operator Krista Loveless.

With that in mind, the team focuses on providing exceptional service to the client, both in the treatment offered and the bond they create with the client.

"We want the client to feel comfortable coming in, knowing we are building relationships so that they will come back," Loveless says.

Located on the north side of Barrington

Street at 3090 Barrington St., Enlighten has been open for two years, although the team has all worked in the industry for longer.

Enlighten provides laser treatments such as laser hair removal, body slimming, cellulite reduction, skin tightening, photo rejuvenation, rosacea treatment, acne clearance, manicures, pedicures, facials and more. Manicures, pedicures and eyelash extensions are a popular service given the number of holiday parties people attend at this time of year.

People especially appreciate the op-

portunity to put some of their preparation efforts into the hands of another person.

With the Christmas holidays approaching, gift certificates are a great gift option. Customers can purchase gift certificates in any amount and Enlighten also offers gift certificate packages that bundle together certain services, such as a manicure and pedicure. One other gift option is the Enlighten Perfect Present. For \$100, clients get to try out a few of the different services and treatments offered, including a skin consultation, express facial and a makeup application.



Enlighten Perfect Present

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MIC MAC MALL

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WITH THE MIC MAC MALL GIFT CARD

Finding the right gift for everyone on your list can be somewhat challenging, but with a Mic Mac Mall Gift Card the guesswork is taken out of the equation, giving you some extra time to focus on buying yourself a couple of holiday gifts, too.

"It's the gift that's perfect for those hard-to-buy people," says Rebecca Logan, the marketing director at Mic Mac Mall.

"With a mall gift card, you can use it at most of the stores in Mic Mac Mall and that way people can buy exactly what they want."

Logan says that whether one is shopping for children, grandparents or a partner, Mic Mac Mall's wide variety of retailers offers something for everyone, which is why a mall gift card is an easy solution during the holidays. This variety includes retailers who are exclusive to the Mic Mac Mall, such as H&M, Bath & Body Works, Jack & Jones, Pandora, BCBG, Jacob, and Talbots.

Gift cards are sold at Guest Services (across from Cinnabon on the Lower Level) and the Mic Mac Lounge (on the lower level across from Shoppers Drug Mart).

Gift cards will be available for purchase right up until closing time on Christmas Eve, which is 5 p.m.

Another added benefit of visiting Mic Mac Mall during the holidays is the free photos with Santa. Mic Mac Mall is the only property in HRM that offers daily appearances by Santa. The photos are then emailed directly to the customer, where they can be printed, shared and sent to friends and family.

Santa will be calling Mic Mac Mall home Mondays through Saturdays from



CONTRIBUTED

noon to 8 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. With the holiday being such a busy time of year, Mic Mac

Mall offers extended hours on Sundays in December from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., rather than the usual noon to 5 p.m.

GET CONNECTED FOR GREAT SAVINGS

People looking to stay in the loop about the latest promotions, events and sales at Mic Mac Mall should get connected with the mall's social media presence.

"If you're interested to know what's going on at Mic Mac Mall,

like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and you'll receive all the latest and greatest happenings," says Rebecca Logan, the mall's marketing director.

Mic Mac Mall has one of the largest social media followings in Canada.

Holiday Hours

December 1 - 23

Monday - Saturday

Sunday **EXTENDED HOURS**

9:30 am - 9 pm

10 am - 6 pm

December 24

December 25 & 26

Dec 27 **BOXING DAY SALE**

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MALL CLOSED

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Don't forget to visit Santa!

Until December 23

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Sundays in December Noon to 6 pm

Photos with Santa are FREE, again at Mic Mac! For your convenience, we'll email them to you directly.

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EVEN THE SMALLEST GIFTS DESERVE TO BE DRESSED UP

When it comes to the perfect holiday gift, it's not necessarily what's on the inside that counts. The magic of giving is due in large part to the colourful paper, breathtaking bows and other giftwrap accessories that create a festive sense of occasion.

Statistics indicate that although gift wrap has grown to become a multibillion-dollar industry, the way we give gifts is changing.

The growing popularity of gift cards and "virtual" presents, like charitable donations, means fewer boxes to wrap, and many environmentally-conscious Canadians are looking for alternatives to traditional gift wrapping.

According to Shelli Gardner, co-founder and CEO of crafting company Stampin' Up!, there are countless creative ways to keep up with the changing times.

"Gift wrap creates the sense of excitement and anticipation that is such an important part of gift-giving," she says. "Even the smallest gift deserves to be presented with a bit of flair.

From unique packaging ideas for gift cards to eco-friendly wrapping that can be re-used time and time again, there are some exciting new trends to watch in 2012."

Canadians spend more than \$6 billion on gift cards every year, so odds are most people will have them on their holiday shopping list.

However, this well-intentioned gift can often fall flat if presented in a store-branded envelope, or via email. To give a gift card with style, Gardner suggests taking a small paper envelope and adding a festive stamp in a seasonal shade such as Cherry Cobbler

or Gumball Green. The Stampin' Up! Make a Mitten and Snowflake Soiree

Stamp Sets include a variety of holiday-themed shapes; visit stampinup.ca to learn more. For an added touch, punch a hole at one end of the envelope and tie on some seasonally-inspired grosgrain ribbon. You can add it to your tree as an ornament until the time comes to open gifts.

— News Canada



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SECRET SANTA GIFT IDEAS

It's that time of year — you are buying presents for friends, family, and that one quiet guy at the office. Office gift exchanges often mean you are shopping for people you barely know. To help, the staff from Canada's largest bargain hunting site, RedFlagDeals.com, have put together some secret Santa tips:

BOSS: Buying presents for your boss can be awkward. Choose a meaningful gift instead of something fancy or expensive. Fun gifts like a framed photo from a work event or a batch of gourmet cookies to share are a good start.



NEWS CANADA PHOTO

NEW PERSON: This one is tougher. Keep an eye on what the new person likes to eat. If they come into the office every day with a large coffee, put together a nice mug, a coffee shop gift certificate and some chocolate-covered espresso beans for the ultimate gift.

INTERN: Usually, "intern" is a code word

for "underpaid." Skip the gag gifts and get your intern something useful like movie passes.

RECEPTIONIST: If there is one thing a receptionist has enough of, it's office supplies. Skip the stationery and treat them to a deluxe gift basket, a gift certificate to the local salon for a manicure/pedicure

combo, or a good book.

IT/HELP DESK: Treat the people who fix your computer well. Something like a gift certificate to their favourite restaurant will work. If you want to be a bit more creative, observe what they decorate their desk with and get them something that fits in. — *News Canada*

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YOUR SIMPLE GIFT SOLUTION

WALMART GIFT CARDS OFFER GREAT PRICES, CHOICES

Wondering what to give the mail carrier, the dog walker, your child's teacher, or the co-worker whose name you picked in the secret Santa draw? Or pretty much anyone on your holiday gift list? Thanks to Walmart, there's a simple solution.

"When you give a Walmart gift card, you're giving the gift of great prices and choices," says Felicia Fefer, Walmart Canada's manager of corporate affairs.

The beauty of giving a Walmart gift card is the person receiving it can choose to use it for whatever they want the most, from fashion and electronics to food and housewares.

There are more than 30 holiday gift card designs, ranging from contemporary (gold, white and purple snowflakes on a purple background) to traditional (holiday bells) and whimsical



(cartoon of Santa and friends on a sleigh).

The collection also features cards with specialty finishes, including lenticular cards (where you hold the card still and see one design, then tilt it to view a second design) and scratch 'n' sniff cards (gingerbread is an appropriate scent at this time of year).

There are even cards for pet lovers, with cute images of cats and dogs decked out in holiday accessories.



The gift cards have matching tin carriers that retail for \$2.47 each, so no wrapping is necessary. The tins have colourful contemporary Christmas designs that include a red-nosed reindeer pulling a sleigh, Santa with his sack of toys, a pile of gifts under a tree, and blue snowflakes on a white background.

Walmart gift cards can be bought at one store and redeemed at any other store location in Canada. Bonus: When the recipient has spent the amount on the card, it can be reloaded and reused. And the

FLEXIBLE PRICING

Located at the cash registers and near the front of the more than 370 Walmart stores across Canada, the gift cards come with a pre-set amount of \$25, \$50 or \$100. Or you can choose the dollar amount — anywhere from \$5 to \$2,500 — which the cashier will load onto the card.



best part? There are no expiry dates.

The holiday-themed cards will be for sale right up until the stores close on Christmas Eve — ideal for last-minute shoppers who still have no idea what to get some of the people on their gift list.

"Walmart gift cards are popular all year long, but especially during the holidays," Fefer says.

"They're the perfect present for those who are hard to shop for or who have everything."

— Jane Doucet

Shopping for the person who has everything?



Give the gift of choice with a Walmart gift card.

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Belleville Bulls goalie Malcolm Subban, from Toronto, stretches on Tuesday during the national junior hockey team selection camp in Calgary.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 goalies fight for high-pressure job

World junior selection camp. Canada will take a third goaltender to Russia as insurance against injury

No goalie feels more pressure at the world junior hockey championship than Canada's starter, says the man cultivating the next one.

Ron Tugnutt is the Canadian team's goaltending coach and has personally experienced that kind of pressure. In addition to a long NHL career, Tugnutt twice represented Canada at the men's world championship.

"There's a lot more pres-

Quoted

"Contrary to belief, there's no starting job being given out, I can tell you guys that."

Canadian juniors head coach Steve Spott, who tried to dampen speculation that Malcolm Subban has the inside track on the starting job because he has played on European-sized ice.

sure on our goalie than on the other teams," Tugnutt said Tuesday at selection camp in Calgary.

When European teams win the semifinal, they're thrilled at the prospect of "at least" a silver medal, but Canadian players aren't interested in anything but gold, he explained.

With no incumbent from the previous world junior championship, a major subplot of selection camp in Cal-

gary this week is who will be Canada's starter, backup and alternate at the 2013 world junior championship starting Dec. 26 in Ufa, Russia.

In a new development, Canada will take a third goaltender as insurance against injury because of the travel time required to get to Russia.

Malcolm Subban of the Belleville Bulls, Laurent Brossoit of the Edmonton Oil Kings, Jordan Binnington of the Owen Sound Attack and

Jake Paterson of the Saginaw Spirit are the four invitees. There's little time for them to impress head coach Steve Spott as the 23-player team will be finalized on Thursday afternoon.

After four years on North American ice, the world junior tournament returns to a surface four metres wider with just over a half-metre more space between the back of the net and the end boards.

Tugnutt says Subban's big-ice experience is one check mark in his favour.

"I think it is an advantage for him just because it is a different visual," Tugnutt said. "But that's not going to be the determining factor on what happens here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Junior selection camp . Mooseheads on winning team in intrasquad game

Nathan MacKinnon and Jonathan Drouin were on the victorious team as Team Red edged Team White 3-1 in a Canadian junior intrasquad game in Calgary on Tuesday night.

Phillip Danault of the Victoriaville Tigres, Frank Cor-

rado of the Sudbury Wolves and Edmonton Oilers forward Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, shooting into an empty net, scored for Team Red, which outshot Team White 26-23. Hunter Shinkaruk of the Medicine Hat Tigers had the goal for Team White.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Canadian junior hopefuls will face a CIS all-star team, with the first round of cuts possible following the game.

The 23-man roster is scheduled to be finalized end of day Thursday.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO

NBL Canada

Rainmen believe they're finding winning formula

It's been a season of constant change for the Halifax Rainmen but owner Andre Levingston believes he's finally found a winning formula.

"We have 10 guys and we are extremely pleased with those guys," Levingston said. "So there won't be movement of that nucleus."

Under newly acquired head coach Rob Spon, the Rainmen have managed an impressive 5-1 record with the emphasis on defence and team play.

Monday's latest shake-up came as a surprise when Levingston and Co. released their top scorer and leading rebounder Brandon Robinson, while bringing in Texas Wesleyan power forward Eric Frederick.

Robinson, the reigning league-scoring champion, failed to meet expectations after being acquired from Oshawa, scoring just four and six points in his last two outings while sporting the league's worst field-goal percentage.

Unwilling to take on a supporting role, he was cut loose. But Levingston is hoping Frederick, a six-foot-eight, 250-pound forward who he says is an NBA-calibre player, will be one of the last pieces of a championship puzzle.

"He's extremely talented," Levingston said. "He can hit long-range shots, and he's very physical in the paint."

Levingston says he's still hoping to pick up a pure perimeter shooter.

Reed Baker, Darren Duncan, Paul Nelson, Eddie Smith and Joel Smith are just some of the players who have left the Rainmen roster in the past month.

Levingston says that's the reality of a development league where teams don't have the means to sign players to long-term contracts.

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO



Andre Levingston METRO FILE

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Halifax Mooseheads forward Jonathan Drouin, right, speaks to Dougie Hamilton of Toronto on Tuesday in Calgary. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crosby and Co. sticking together during lockout

NHL lockout. Group of Penguins working out together in effort to stay ready in case the season is salvaged

Brooks Orpik had a good reason to head back to Pittsburgh after spending the first three months of the NHL lockout in Massachusetts, and the Penguins defenceman insists it had nothing to do with optimism he and the rest of his teammates are closer to getting back to work.

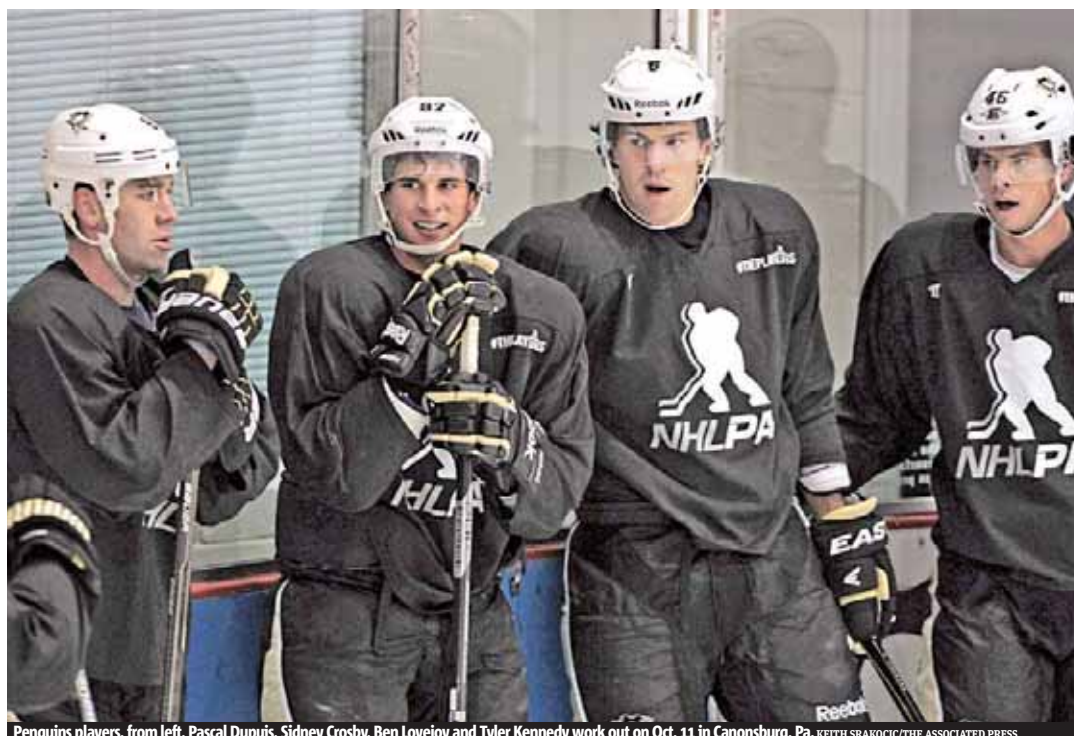
"I didn't have snow tires on my car, so I was like, 'If I wait this out any longer I'm going to get stuck here and not have a car down in Pittsburgh,'" Orpik said. "It was really just a change of scenery."

Orpik wasn't alone. He carpooled down to Pittsburgh with Tyler Kennedy, and a little bit of peer pressure convinced forward James Neal to join the handful of Penguins who have been working out regularly at the regional ice rink that serves as the team's practice facility.

"It's just something different to stimulate you," Orpik said.

Orpik had been working out with players in the Boston area, monitoring negotiations and attempting to stay sharp. Things felt a little different, however, while skating alongside his teammates for the first time since Pittsburgh lost to Philadelphia in the first round of the 2012 Stanley Cup playoffs.

Having Sidney Crosby around may something to do with it. The captain has been a fixture at the workouts and having 15 players in all — including a couple of non-Penguins — allowed Crosby and



Penguins players, from left, Pascal Dupuis, Sidney Crosby, Ben Lovejoy and Tyler Kennedy work out on Oct. 11 in Canonsburg, Pa. KEITH SRAKOCIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

company to pick up the pace a little bit.

Crosby has served as the de facto organizer for the drills and is eager to get his career back underway after struggling with concussion-like symptoms for most of the last two years. He attended three days of marathon negotiations between owners and players in New York last week, though he has no plans to be around when talks resume.

While Crosby has long since stopped guessing when the NHL's third labour dispute under commissioner Gary Bettman's watch will end, he remains hopeful hockey will

Quoted

"I think one thing that's the same all the way through is that guys are trying to do their best to stay ready and they're trying to make the best of the situation."

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby

return at some point.

"The fact that they're talking is good and I think we've all said that throughout this process, it's better than sitting around and not knowing what everyone is thinking," Crosby said.

Spending three days at the bargaining table, however, tempered any sense a deal was

imminent. The league has cancelled games through Dec. 30 and there are still a myriad of concerns that need to be addressed.

"There's a lot of details, a lot of things that go into a CBA and those haven't even been starting to be talked about," Crosby said. "We definitely have some work to do there but I'm sure

once all the major things get taken care of, hopefully the process gets a little easier."

Tuesday's turnout was encouraging, sure, but it's also part of an ebb and flow that's been typical since the lockout began.

There have been days when only a handful of players show up. While that can make it difficult at times to get motivated, it hasn't stopped Crosby from showing up, even if instead of a packed house at Consol Energy Center it's a sprinkling of fans, folks working at a gym located over one end of the ice and facility employees.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Tiger-Cats kill Cortez's career in Hamilton

George Cortez paid the price Tuesday for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats' disappointing season as the CFL team has relieved him of his duties as head coach and director of football operations.

The firing came just over a month after the Ticats wrapped up a 6-12 season.

"After a thorough evaluation of our organization and our goals moving forward, we have determined that a change in direction is needed," team president Scott Mitchell said in a release.

Cortez said he was surprised by the news, but seemed to be taking his dismissal well when he talked to reporters Tuesday.

"That's the way things go," he said. "We didn't win enough games, and ultimately that's what you're judged on." THE CANADIAN PRESS



George Cortez THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Lions lock up all-star linebacker

The B.C. Lions have signed import all-star linebacker Adam Bighill to a contract extension.

The CFL all-star led the team with 104 tackles this past season and earned the club's nomination as outstanding defensive player.

Bighill equalled the team record for tackles in a game (13) on Sept. 29. He earned defensive player of the week honours on four occasions and was defensive player of the month for October. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soccer. Awards continue to rush in for Sinclair

It really should be called the Christine Sinclair Award.

Sinclair, the scoring machine of Canada's Olympic bronze medal-winning soccer team, has won the country's top female soccer award.

The 29-year-old native of Burnaby, B.C., was named the female Canadian player of the year on Tuesday in a vote by the country's media and coaches.

The prize comes a day after Sinclair was named winner of the 2012 Lou Marsh Award as Canada's top athlete.

"Her instrumental role on

By the numbers

9

Christine Sinclair has won the Canadian female player of the year award in nine straight years and 10 times since 2000.

the international playing field has brought an overwhelming sense of national pride to Canadian soccer fans," Justine Fedak of BMO Financial Group, sponsors of the player of the year awards, said in a statement. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tennis. Nadal ready to return from knee injury

Rafael Nadal is ready to return to competitive tennis, confirming Tuesday that he'll play in an exhibition tournament in Abu Dhabi at the end of the month following a six-month break to recover from a knee injury.

Nadal, 26, began practising on a court in his hometown of Manacor in Spain on Nov. 20 under the supervision of his uncle and coach Tony Nadal and a physiotherapist.

The Abu Dhabi tournament starts Dec. 27 and will feature a six-man field that also includes

Quoted

"Can't wait to get back on court in Abu Dhabi at the end of the month."

Rafael Nadal on Twitter and Facebook

top-ranked Novak Djokovic and No. 3 Andy Murray of Britain.

Nadal has not played since a second-round loss to then 100th-ranked Lukas Rosol at Wimbledon in June due to the partial tear of a tendon in his left knee. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Cavs' Irving helps send Lakers to another loss

Kyrie Irving scored 28 points after missing 11 games with a broken finger, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 100-94 win over the Los Angeles Lakers, who dropped to a new low Tuesday night in a tumultuous season.

Irving added 11 assists in 39 minutes as the Cavs ended a five-game losing streak.

Kobe Bryant scored 42 and Dwight Howard had 19 points and 20 rebounds, but it wasn't enough to stop the Lakers from losing for the eighth time in 11 games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cavs guard C.J. Miles shoots over the Lakers' Dwight Howard on Tuesday in Cleveland. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Less Fuel. More Power. Great Value is a comparison between the 2012 and the 2011 Chrysler Canada product lineups. 40 MPG or greater claim (7.0 L/100 km) based on 2012 EnerGuide highway fuel consumption estimates. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. See retailer for additional EnerGuide details. **2012 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package & SE Plus 2.4 L 4-speed automatic** – Hwy: 7.5 L/100 km and City: 10.3 L/100 km. **2012 Dodge Journey SXT 3.6 L 6-speed automatic** – Hwy: 7.8 L/100 km and City: 12.6 L/100 km. **Wise customers read the fine print:** * - 1. The It's A Wonderful Ride Holiday Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers on or after November 25, 2012. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing excludes freight (\$1,400-\$1,695), licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. *\$18,995 Purchase Price applies to 2012 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) only and includes \$2,000 Consumer Cash Discount. **Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select 2012 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. †-Holiday Bonus Cash up to \$1,000 is available on most new 2012/2013 models, excluding the following: Chrysler 200 LX, Dodge Caliber, Dart SE, Grand Caravan CVP, Journey CVP/SE, Avenger, Viper, Jeep Compass Sport 4x2 & 4x4, Patriot Sport 4x2 & 4x4, Wrangler 2 Dr Sport, Grand Cherokee SRT6, Ram 1500 Reg Cab & ST & SXT Trucks, Ram Cab & Chassis, Ram Cargo Van, Fiat 500 Abarth and 2012 Fiat 500 Pop models. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. See your retailer for complete details. ‡4.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on the 2012 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) model to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Auto Finance and Ally Credit Canada. Example: 2012 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of \$18,995 (including applicable Consumer Cash Discount) financed at 4.49% over 96 months with \$0 down payment, equals 208 bi-weekly payments of \$109 with a cost of borrowing of \$3,650 and a total obligation of \$22,645.44, \$2012 Dodge Journey R/T shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount: \$23,995. †Based on R. L. Polk Canada, Inc., May 2008 to August 2012 Canadian Total New Vehicle Registration data for Chrysler Crossover Segments. Start date based on the marketing launch commencing May 2008. ‡SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc. †Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

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2012 Dodge Journey R/T shown.¹

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Space

From front to back, the Flex appears as straight up and down as a shoebox, which is a major contributor to its overall roominess. Although its six, or seven, passenger layout is near tops in this segment, cargo space with the rear seats in place or folded completely flat is about average.



The Flex's dashboard

2013 Ford Flex

- **Type.** Four-door, front/all-wheel-drive, full size wagon.
- **Engines (hp).** 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (287), 3.5 litre DOHC V6, twin-turbocharged (365).
- **Transmission.** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl.destination).** \$32,150

Design

The Flex is mostly rectangular and has highly practical styling. Ford's designers made no attempt to disguise the vehicle's significant size, but for the 2013 model year they did devise a far more expressive nose consisting of a single brushed aluminum bar flanked by projector beam-style headlights.

Engine

The standard 3.5-litre V6 now makes 287 horsepower and 254 pound-feet of torque, a gain of 25 horses and six pound-feet from the 2012 engine. Optional is the returning 3.5-litre twin-turbocharged "EcoBoost" V6 rated at 365 (hp) and 350 pound-feet of torque, but only if it's fed premium-grade gasoline.

Review. If there's one vehicle that lives up to its name, this is it!

MALCOLM GUNN

Wheelbase Media

Say what you will about the Ford Flex, this big-rig takes its people and cargo-carrying role seriously, but with a sly wink and a nod when the topic of styling is mentioned.

Wagon-style bodies are somewhat of a Ford specialty. Along with the Flex, three-row seating is offered in the full-size Expedition and the Explorer, while the Edge, Escape and the passenger version of the Transit Connect cargo van provide space for five.

Among them, however, the Flex is unique. It sits low to the ground like a regular sedan and shares the same platform with the Lincoln MKT wagon. That's preferable for those who want to access their vehicle without using a stepladder.

For 2013, Ford has upgraded

the Flex in other ways, including the availability of second-row seatbelts that act a bit like airbags and inflate within 40 milliseconds of a crash. Additional extra-cost safety gear consists of radar-based adaptive cruise control that keeps a steady distance from the vehicle in front, and blind spot information with cross-traffic alert that warns of overtaking vehicles and vehicles approaching from either side when backing out of a parking spot. Then there's curve control that can detect when the Flex is entering a turn too quickly and within a second applies braking force to slow the vehicle down by up to 16 km/h.

The Flex's three-model line up starts with the \$32,150 (including destination charges) SE that arrives fairly well equipped with all the usual accessories and gadgets.

The Flex's oversize dimensions and rectangular silhouette might give some buyers pause, but if you're seeking something different, thinking inside the box could make this Ford the perfect fit.



The Flex can seat six or seven people depending on your order.



Fold down the seats for some added room

By comparison



- 1** Mazda CX-9
Base price: \$38,300



- 2** Chevrolet Traverse
Base price: \$37,500



- 3** Toyota Highlander
Base price: \$33,300

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Your wiper blades are among the most critical safety features on your vehicle. If you can't see, you're not safe, and dirt builds up quickly in winter weather.

"Visibility is extremely important," says Graham Jeffrey, winter driving expert for Canadian Tire. "You want the wiper that will give you the best possible performance."

The claw structure, one of the oldest designs, uses a thin blade. A more modern design is the beam blade, which uses a wider wiper.

"Instead of pressure points like the claw structure, the beam maintains even pressure

across the blade, which gives it a more consistent wipe," Jeffrey says.

"And with the claw structure, there are open spaces where you can get a lot of snow build-up, which limits the wiper's ability to form to the windshield and give you a solid wipe."

At higher speeds, claw blades are more susceptible to wind, which can lift them off the glass and cause chatter. Beam blades are more aerodynamic and aren't as affected by this.

Just as you can put winter tires on your car, you can also switch to winter wiper blades. Originally these were claw blades with a rubber boot that prevented them clogging with snow.

Today's winter blades use a special rubber compound that stays supple at very low temperatures. Most will wear quickly in hot weather, so it's best to switch to regular blades in spring, and store these pricier blades until next winter.

Quoted

"A beam blade on its own is not defined as a winter wiper blade. Beam blades have a significant advantage over a claw blade and if you're going to use one all year round the beam blade is better."

Graham Jeffrey, winter driving expert for Canadian Tire
On the importance of choosing the right windshield wiper.

"A beam blade on its own is not defined as a winter wiper blade," Jeffrey says.

"Beam blades have a significant advantage over a claw blade, and if you're only going to use one year-round, the beam blade is better. But when you get into a winter blade, you get that winter compound too."

When cleaning ice off



Choose your blades wisely for the cutting winter ahead. HANDOUT

Rules

- **No dirty blades.** Always replace your wiper blades if they start to streak or leave dirty patches.
- **Choose correct fluid.** Use windshield washer fluid that's formulated for winter temperatures. If fluid freezes on the glass, you

won't be able to see.

- **Double check wiper choice.** Some vehicles have two different sized wiper blades, due to the shape of the windshield, so be sure you're buying the right ones.

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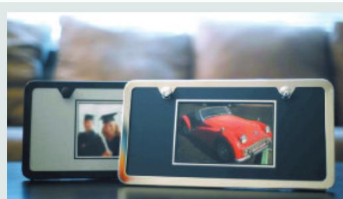
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Parts Department

Whether it's a Christmas gift, a novelty birthday gift or just something for yourself, here are some ideas for unique automotive-inspired presents.

WHEELBASE MEDIA



A picture-perfect frame

Auto enthusiasts who are proud of their particular rides usually like to display photos of them in their homes and offices. Camisasca Automotive Manufacturing Inc. has developed a realistic-looking licence plate picture frame. The frames are large enough to hold a 4 by 6-inch image and are available in a hand-polished mirror-bright finish or in black. In addition, the frames come with both hinged easel support and metal wall hanger for easy display. Each frame costs \$55 US plus shipping. To order, go to camincstore.com.

Tool chest for tykes

If your child or grandchild shares your passion for racing, the Tool Chest Dresser from The Step2 Company would make a fun piece of bedroom furniture. The dresser's 79 by 79 by 40 centimetre-deep molded double-wall poly construction should prove virtually kid-proof. Each of the four doors opens wide for easy access to clothing, toys, etc. that can be stored on or below the molded-in centre shelf. But the fun part is that each dresser includes a package of racecar sponsorship decals that you can apply wherever and however you want. The Tool Chest Dresser unit sells for \$100 US and can be purchased through step2.com/p/Tool-Chest-Dresser.



Pump up the volume...

Your significant other might not appreciate this old-style Black Gold Gas Pump CD/DVD holder placed in the living room or in another prominent spot in your home, so you'll likely have to locate it in your garage, rec room or home office. Either way, this 23 by 23 by 56-centimetre-tall cabinet from Asher Home Decorators will be a conversation magnet. The handmade, antiqued wood gas pump with embossed Black Gold logos comes with four built-in shelves for video/audio media storage, etc. This item retails for \$100 US and is available through asherhomedecorators.com.



Ask the auto 8 ball

When shaken or turned upside down, the Automotive Diagnostic 8 Ball from Automotive Video Inc. 8 Ball does what any 8 Ball does: It mystically and magically supplies an answer to an auto-related question. In this case, it will merrily determine what's ailing your vehicle, from the simple to the very expensive. And if you don't like its initial diagnosis, just shake it again and again until a more acceptable answer presents itself. Sounds like the ideal gift for the auto "expert" in the family. It's a bargain at \$15 US from auto-video.com.

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Motorcycle show big on the small



The Suzuki GW250.

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I wouldn't say there is anything wrong with an out-

rageously loud and over-powered Orange County chopper, especially to the weathered face and tattooed biceps of a large person who just got off such a bike in the parking lot. But bigger motorbikes are just not my style.

I love small motorcycles. They're fun to ride and easy to own. And I'm in the styling camp that gravitates to

great proportions above all else, so to me, overall size has very little to do with the visual impact and/or appeal of any given bike or car.

So I was thrilled to see so many neat and smallish rides on the show floor of last weekend's motorcycle show in Toronto.

This is the show run by the manufacturers, via its Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council (MMIC). After Toronto, the MMIC show makes stops in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Quebec, Moncton and Montreal. (Check local listings for dates and venues).

At last year's show, for example, you wouldn't have seen the new Suzuki GW250, or Honda's new CB500 line (CB500F, CB500X, CBR500R). Honda suddenly has a very attractive and logical progression of street bikes, in 125-cc, 250-cc and 500-cc formats.

"People want an affordable entry level motorcycle. That's where the market is going right now," said Dave Hawson, director of sales and marketing for Suzuki Canada's motorcycle, ATV and marine division.

Hawson added that a lot of the "affordability" of smaller bikes manifests itself in the insurance end, especially for younger and/or newer riders.

He's dead right. My small phone survey to brokers revealed that an 18-year-old looking to insure a 600-cc sportbike in the GTA would be looking at premiums of about \$3,500 to \$4,000 and beyond. By contrast, that same 18-year-old rider could insure a 250-cc bike in the GTA for \$1,500 to \$2,000 — basically half the

price.

At the show I ran into Dave Mackenzie of Motorsports Canada, which imports the Wolf Classic 150 — a Honda Rebel knockoff with a 150-cc engine.

He felt that up until a few years ago, the Canadian market was "starved" of small motorcycles.

He believed the big brands shied away from them here in North America, because there was simply more money to be found, per unit, in the larger bike formats.

I guess it's hard to say whether that was the case, or if it was simply a case of no one wanting to buy the smaller bikes back then.

But there is no denying, however, that the big brands are more aware and concerned than ever that their biggest group of motorcycle buyers — the boomers — are getting older and older and will soon fade from the scene and that they need a new generation of buyers to get into motorcycling culture.

Insurance and industry forces aside, I think people have also generally rediscovered the joys of smallish motorcycles, after years of chasing horsepower and their high-speed capabilities.

For those that like the bigger stuff, have no fear. The influx of smaller bikes has not diminished the number of variety of big, powerful bikes, in all their guises.

To each their own, I say, even if they are so wrong in their big-bike convictions that they can no longer be saved from them.

Even by me.



Santa Claus prepares to treat himself to an early present on hearing the news that a 2013 Jetta is now only \$168 a month. "I'm telling everyone — but not everyone believes in me," he commented.



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BANK OF MONTREAL, one of the chartered banks of Canada
-and- Plaintiff
JONATHAN JAY TARDIF and **WBLI INCORPORATED**, Trustee
in Bankruptcy for the estate of Stephanie Elizabeth Tardif Defendant
Notice of Public Auction
To be sold at Public Auction under an order for foreclosure, sale, and possession, unless before the time of sale the amount due to the plaintiff on the mortgage under foreclosure, plus costs to be taxed, are paid:
Property: ALL that certain parcel of land known as 457 Island View Drive, Boutliers Point Halifax County, Nova Scotia also known as **PID 40248155** and more fully described in the mortgage recorded at the Halifax County, Land Registration Office at document number **96458519**. The parcel is subject to a right of way more fully described in book 4491, page 210 and together with a right of way more fully described in book 4721, page 881. The parcel has been registered pursuant to the Land Registration Act.
A copy of the description of the property, as contained in the mortgage under foreclosure, is on file at the sheriff's office and may be inspected during business hours.
Date of Sale: Thursday, January 10th, 2013
Time of Sale: 12:30 p.m. local time
Place of Sale: The Law Courts, 1815 Upper Water Street, Halifax, NS B3J 1S7
Terms: Ten per cent (10%) deposit payable by cash, certified cheque, or solicitor's trust cheque at the time of sale, remainder within fifteen days upon delivery of deed.
Signature
Signed on the day of December, 2012
I, Andrew Rankin
MURCHES
1800-1801 Hollis Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3N4
Telephone: 902-423-6361
Facsimile: 902-420-9326
nmh 1044000
Alan Cooley, Sheriff for Halifax County, Province of Nova Scotia

AUCTION

In accordance with the Warehouseman's Lien Act, there will be sold by public auction the abandoned properties stored at Storage Inn Self Storage, 3490 Prescott St., Halifax, N.S. The auction will take place on **Friday, Dec. 28, 2012** starting at 10:30 am at 3490 Prescott Street, Halifax, N.S. and at subsequent sales until sold.
The personal effects and belongings of the following tenants will be sold:
Laura MacDonald Unit #1099
Mike Huggan Unit #2028
Michael Fanning Unit #2117
Items to be auctioned include misc. household goods, furniture, tools etc.

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Mississauga (Ontario) L4T 4E5
Fax: 1-905-673-3655
Email: jgibson@beaulieucanada.ca



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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20
Don't take sides or play favourites today. In fact, steer clear of contentious issues altogether if you can. No matter how hard you try to be fair, you will make more enemies than friends.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21
You are being too serious about something that is of no importance in the greater scheme of things. Focus on what makes you feel good, what makes you laugh, what makes you glad to be alive. Nothing else matters.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21
It may seem as if someone you live or work with is trying to undermine your efforts, but in reality you are reading too much into a situation that is quite straightforward. Don't listen to what they say — watch what they do.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23
No matter how annoying certain people get today, you must not allow yourself to be provoked. You may be raging on the inside but if you stay calm on the outside it will defuse what could have been a messy situation.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23
A sudden attraction is likely today but it may be more than just romantic. Most likely you will meet someone whose mind is a match for your own, and whose sense of humour has you laughing fit to bust.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to do some serious thinking about a relationship that has brought you a lot of pleasure but also a considerable amount of pain. Is it worth carrying on with? Only you can decide. Make your choice.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You need to slow down and catch your breath today because what happens over the following three or four days will be both exciting and exhausting. Give your body, your mind and your emotions a rest — they've earned it.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you uncover some juicy information about a friend, you should keep it to yourself. It will save them from embarrassment — and give you a bargaining chip you may one day be able to use.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Some people are feeling rather resentful towards you. Why? Because everything you touch turns to gold. It's not your fault you are smack bang in the middle of such a fortunate phase, so don't feel guilty about it.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The planets warn that although it's right to feel pleased with what you have achieved, it would be wrong to believe it's all plain sailing from now on. A new challenge is heading your way. Be ready for it.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Stop thinking about what has gone wrong and focus on the many things that are still going right for you. There is no reason at all why you should be in a downbeat mood. Life is good and getting better.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20
A friend in need may be the last thing you want to deal with right now but you are not the sort to turn them away. Do what you can to soothe their fears and ease their pain. You'll benefit too, in unexpected ways. **SALLY BROMPTON**

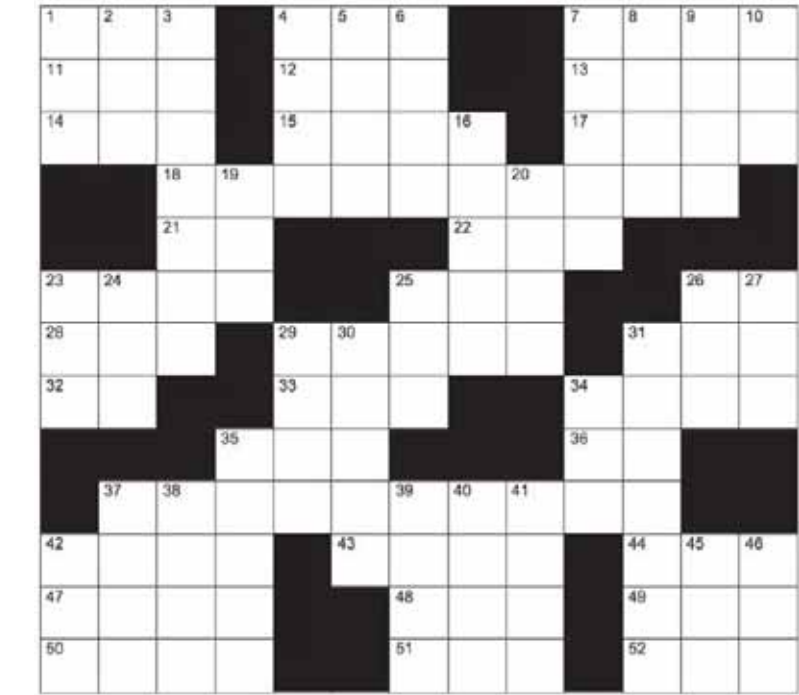
Crossword

Across

- Apple product
- Golfer's goal
- Reunion attendee
- Stop -- - dime (2 words)
- Before, or yore
- Singer/actress Falana
- Ruin
- Make over
- Fashion magazine
- Star of Touched by an Angel (2 words)
- the Heat of the Night
- Buddhist sect
- Fuss
- Gamble
- "How to Marry a Millionaire" actress (init.)
- "Con --"
- Wedge
- Bikini half
- Courtroom figure (abbr.)
- Snakelike fish
- My Name is --
- Syrup source
- Minneapolis state.
- Wee Irish fairy
- Actress Ramirez of Grey's Anatomy
- "-- on Me"
- La Rue of CSI: Miami
- Related
- Do away with
- Tin Tin
- Jeans go-with
- Pauses
- Unhappy

Down

- We celebrate her in May
- Actress Ortiz of Ugly Betty
- Transporter
- Hairdo

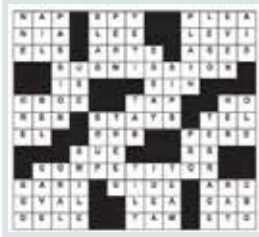


- Space
- Comedian Foxx
- Actress Close
- Function
- McBeal
- Daniel -- Kim of Hawaii Five-O
- Seeps
- Toronto's prov.
- Dampens
- Passing fancy

- Inlet
- Sound measure
- Sub zero comment
- Guy's date
- Juicy fruit
- Ward off
- Pennants
- Aussie bird
- Reaches
- Pond

- Canal of song
- Bird-bill part
- Broadway musical
- No ifs, -- or buts
- Was in session
- By way of
- The Bold -- the Beautiful

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers
metronews.ca/
answers.



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	1	4	6	5	9	2	7	3
5	7	2	6	4	3	9	6	1
9	3	6	1	2	7	8	5	4
4	6	8	9	7	1	5	3	2
3	2	1	5	8	6	4	9	7
7	5	9	4	3	2	1	8	6
1	8	5	3	6	4	7	2	9
6	9	7	2	1	5	3	4	8
2	4	3	7	9	8	6	1	5

5					3			9
		1	3		2			
2					7			
		2					6	
	5	6	4	8	9	7	1	
	7					4		
			2					1
			7		8	6		
1		4						3

Today

-1°/-5°
Sunny

Thursday

0°/-2°
Partly cloudy

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